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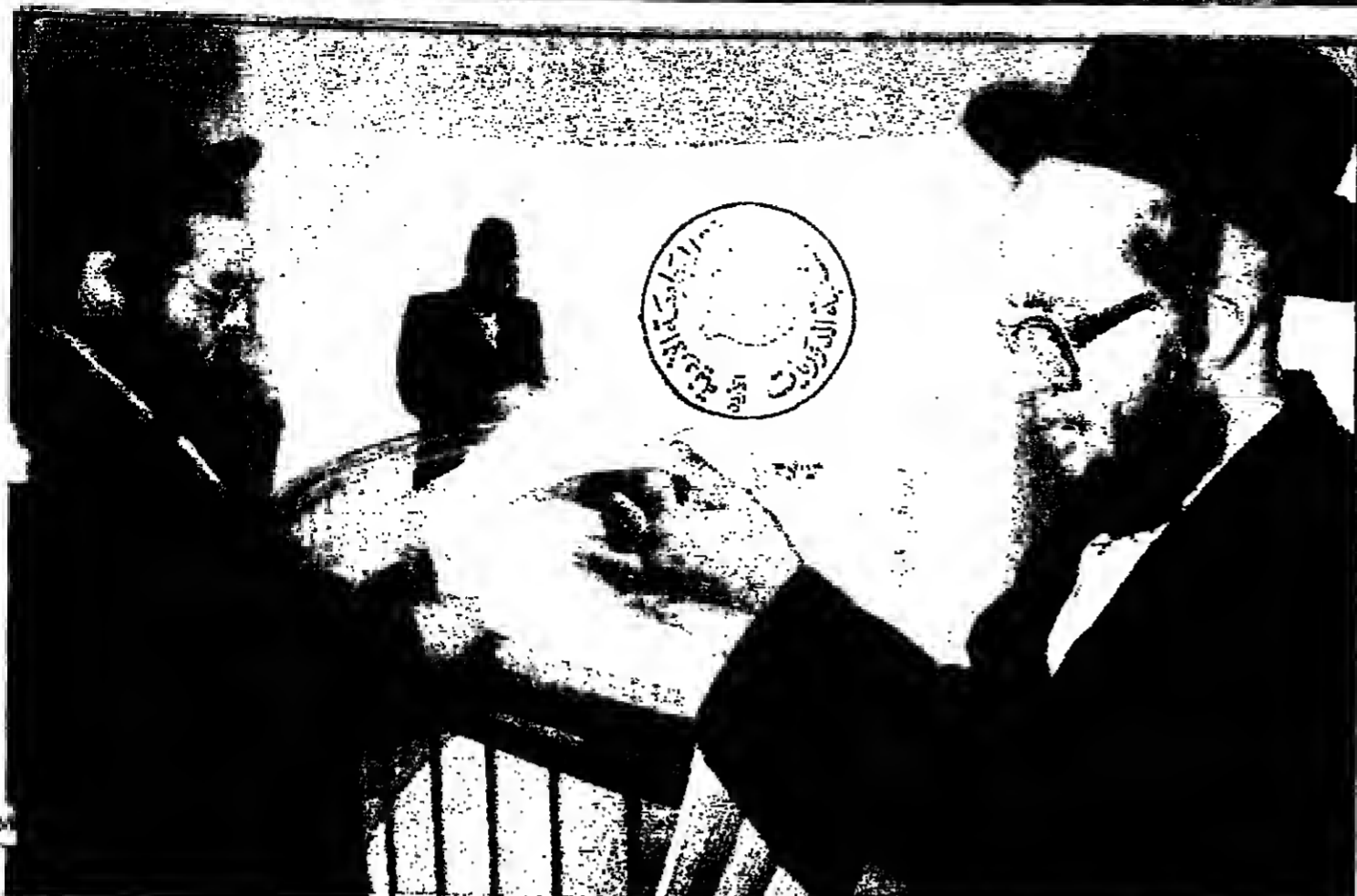
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Haredim look at yesterday's High Court of Justice ruling on the Rehov Bar-Ilan petitions at the Supreme Court building in Jerusalem. (Reuters)

Haredim plan 30 mass protests in capital tomorrow

EVELYN GORDON and BILL HUTMAN

HAREDIM are planning mass demonstrations at 30 Jerusalem intersections tomorrow to protest the High Court of Justice's decision not to allow the closure of Rehov Bar-Ilan on Shabbat.

Eda Haredit activist Yehuda Meshi-Zahav said the only possible response to the court's ruling was to escalate the battle by expanding it beyond Bar-Ilan. As a result, he said, the community plans to bring "tens of thousands" to demonstrate at 30 as-yet-unspecified intersections this Shabbat.

The haredi decision is in open defiance of the court's call to let the public commission, decided upon at yesterday's hearing, "operate in a calm atmosphere, without threats or violence."

Several hundred extra policemen are being brought to the capital to beef up existing forces that for two months have every Saturday banded with haredi and secular protesters at Rehov Bar-Ilan.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani called for "Jerusalem residents to continue to obey the law, in light of the High Court decision," according to a statement released by his spokesman yesterday evening.

Police already last night prepared for unrest in Mea She'arim and other haredi neighborhoods. Immediately after the court decision, Jerusalem Police Chief Arye Amit called a meeting of police brass to discuss plans to handle the expected unrest.

Mayor Ehud Olmert joined the

calls for restraint, but also said the authorities must be more understanding of the needs of the religious community when it comes to Rehov Bar-Ilan.

"The court has proven that it is a branch of Meretz," Meshi-Zahav charged after the hearing. "As long as [Bar-Ilan] remains open, we will not stay at home."

"Our community's expectations of the court were very low, because the haredi population is not fairly represented on it, and its objectivity is therefore flawed," added Dudu Zilbershlag, a spokesman for the haredi neighborhoods around Rehov Bar-Ilan. "The High Court ruled in favor of the secular population just as the Badatz [the Eda Haredit's rabbinical court] would have ruled one-sidedly in the haredim's favor had it heard the case."

However, despite these angry reactions, one of the attorneys representing the haredim in court promised that the community would cooperate with the public commission. "We hope this commission will be convinced that the road should be closed, at least during the hours recommended by the Supervisor of Traffic," attorney Meir Schechter explained.

The High Court decision "was a declaration of a cultural war," said MK Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism).

Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy welcomed the decision to appoint a committee and said it was the first time the High Court had taken religious considerations seriously. "The court is deciding

High Court: Rehov Bar-Ilan to stay open on Shabbat for now

EVELYN GORDON

JERUSALEM'S Rehov Bar-Ilan will remain open to traffic on Shabbat for the time being, but a public commission will be set up to study the whole issue of traffic arrangements in the capital on Shabbat, the High Court of Justice decided yesterday.

A seven-justice panel began hearing four petitions against the government's decision to close a portion of the road during prayer times on Shabbat for a four-month trial period. Three petitions demanded that the road not be closed at all; a fourth wanted the road closed for all of Shabbat. During the hearing, however, the court concluded that it was impossible to decide on closing one street without examining the entire picture of traffic flow in Jerusalem on Shabbat.

Justice Dalia Dorn, who first proposed this approach, said her concern was aroused by the fact that all the alternatives to Rehov Bar-Ilan also ran through haredi neighborhoods.

"Thus, in solving one problem, you're creating another [since closing Bar-Ilan would increase traffic on the alternate routes]," she said. "There's an issue of equality here."

Furthermore, she said, new haredi neighborhoods are being built

Netanyahu: Gov't will stand by its bonds

DAVID HARRIS

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday appealed to the public to remain calm in face of a jittery bond market, calling on provident-fund investors to ignore newspaper headlines and not to abandon the markets.

"Bonds are a very secure investment," he said. "The government stands behind them, and we'll take whatever measures necessary to make sure that these bonds always enjoy government support."

July index up 0.3%

Netanyahu's comments came as the Central Bureau of Statistics reported that the Cost-of-Living Index for July registered an 0.3 percent month-on-month increase. The annual rate of inflation based on the first seven months of 1996 is running at 13%.

Earlier yesterday, the central bank presented a schedule program for its intervention in the debt markets, in the framework of its so-called "safety net" mechanism.

The exact formula was decided upon before Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel was officially reappointed for another five years during a ceremony at the president's residence.

The bank will continue to purchase bonds on the secondary market as long as there are sale orders.

Additionally, three mid- and long-term bond tenders of NIS 250 million will be purchased from the public - the first on

Employees to receive 3.2% CoL increment

MICHAL YUDELMAN

SOME two million employees in the public and business sector will get a 3.2% Cost-of-Living increment with their August paycheck.

Histadrut Secretary-General Amir Peretz and the employers' representative, Doron Tamir, yesterday signed the CoL increment agreement at a ceremony at Histadrut headquarters in Tel Aviv.

(Continued on Page 3)

Mordechai presents Hebron pullback plans

DAVID MAKOVSKY

DEFENSE Minister Yitzhak Mordechai presented a range of options for Hebron redeployment to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and top aides yesterday, but no decisions were made during the meeting.

The discussions are to continue on Sunday.

Netanyahu said the emerging plan did not amount to a withdrawal but rather "an agreement that will allow coexistence" between Arabs and Jews in the city the last in the West Bank that has not come under Palestinian control.

"On the one hand we are committed to honoring agreements, but on the other, anyone with eyes understands how complex the security problem in Hebron is," Netanyahu told Channel 2 before the 90-minute meeting.

The other participants in the session were Finance Minister Dan Meridor, National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan, Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy, Netanyahu's foreign policy adviser Dore Gold, and Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh.

Mordechai is expected to meet Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat next week, and the scope of a Hebron pullback is expected to figure in their talks.

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Tel Aviv	7:03	8:03
Haifa	6:57	8:04
Beersheba	7:01	7:58
Eilat	6:58	7:59



Quality focus
Monitoring complain



Religious Affairs Minister Eli Suissa of Shas (center) and his deputy ministers, Shas MK Aryeh Gamiel (left) and NRP MK Yigal Bibi, make a toast yesterday upon starting work in the ministry. (Efraim Kibirok)

Local authorities won't fund school guards

THE Union of Local Authorities will not take any responsibility for the security of schools, and will not finance guards posted outside schools, chairman Adi Eldar announced yesterday. "Last year government ministries promised to finance a third of the cost of posting security guards at schools nationwide," Eldar said at an emergency meeting. "However this promise was not fulfilled and local authorities ended up footing the bill for all security officers at schools."

RAINE MARCUS
police, the parents association and local authorities over who could do the best job in providing security. Police believe that special mobile police patrols set up at the beginning of the last school year are sufficient to safeguard pupils. Teachers and parents did not agree to the plan last year. As a result, private security guards were employed in addition and were subsidized by the local authorities. At yesterday's meeting the ULA insisted that not only would it not finance private security guards, but it would also not contact companies or in any way be responsible for their employment.

"We were at the Knesset's Education and Interior committees, which agreed there should be guards at all educational establishments but could not say how they would be financed," said Perlman. Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled, also present at yesterday's meeting, said: "Even if the government will finance all security guards no local authority will contact security companies, and the government and Internal Security Ministry must be in charge of enlisting guards." Since the government is responsible for school security, it should also be responsible for financing and employing guards, added Eldar. "Last year government ministries were supposed to divide up the payments with us, but failed to do so. This year we are not responsible."

Weapons smuggling ring from Jordan to PA revealed

A GANG of Palestinian smugglers managed to outfox the army and police for at least a year and bring weapons and ammunition from Jordan to the Palestinian Authority, police investigators have discovered. The smugglers brought the goods from Jordan by crossing the Dead Sea in motorized rafts. Six of the rafts were found in a police bust last month in the smugglers' homes in the Hebron area and east Jerusalem. On Wednesday, the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court lifted a ban on publication of details of the case. Senior police sources said they were upset the ban was lifted because it will hurt the continuation of the investigation and possibly their ability to locate other suspects.

BILL HUTMAN
"We are talking about a serious breach of our borders," said a senior investigator, Chief Superintendent Rahamim Tivval of the Judea and Samaria District. "Who knows what else they, or others, managed to smuggle into the country." "We may not just be dealing with weapons, but also terrorists," Tivval said. He said the Dead Sea route was also probably used to bring illicit drugs into the country. Eleven gang members, including two women, were detained in the police bust on July 23. Most members were of the Aramin family, and were not connected to any terror group but criminally motivated, according to Tivval. Some 55,000 Jordanian dinars and

\$45,000 were found during the police raid of homes in the A-Zayim and A-Tor neighborhoods of east Jerusalem, and Sayir village near Hebron. Two pistols, ammunition, false Israeli identity cards, and a pipe bomb in the making were also discovered in the homes. Police also found a document that links the PA with the gang, and includes a list of weapons and ammunition the PA received from the smugglers, according to Tivval. He said the list includes machine guns, but declined to give more details. Sources close to the case said Israel has contacted the Jordanian authorities for help in the investigation. Six of the suspects were remanded until the end of the hearings, while five were released on bail.

Engineer charged for theft of millions in computer fraud

A COMPUTER engineer was yesterday charged with breaking the codes of computers in banks and cheating them out of millions of shekels. Daniel Cohen, 24, of Ramat Gan also entered government computers to change his girlfriend's bagrut grades, police told the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday. He was arrested with dozens of forged credit cards and other forged documents, including an identity card, in his possession, police told

the court. Cohen has a previous conviction for falsification and fraud and was served at the time with a suspended sentence. Police said he was refusing to cooperate with the investigation and had declared he had no problem to disguise his identity and leave the country. Denying the allegations against him, Cohen told the court that plainclothes detectives had arrived in his apartment dressed as electricians.

"They put a revolver to my head... I didn't answer them because I don't speak or read Hebrew well," Cohen said. He charged that the detectives had "threatened to gang-rape" his girlfriend. The defendant's lawyer requested that he be allowed to remain under house arrest, particularly since his computers had been confiscated. But judge Zvi Caspi ruled that he would have to remain in custody for six days. (Iam)

BAR-ILAN

(Continued from Page 1) in Jerusalem. "A committee was set up [by the city] on one road because it became an issue. But tomorrow, another road will be an issue," she said. "You can't deal with Bar-Ilan on its own. You have to deal with Jerusalem as a whole - with all its major arteries." "Where will the limit be [on road closings]?" added Supreme Court President Aharon Barak. Barak therefore suggested that the government set up a high-level public commission to determine both the general criteria for closing major arteries on Shabbat and a specific compromise on which roads in the capital should be closed. This idea was accepted by the government, the secular petitioners and the haredi representatives alike. "We believe the proper way to handle this problem is by reaching a consensus among the different sectors of the population regarding traffic on Shabbat," wrote Justices Barak, Dornier, Sblomo Levine, Theodor Orr, Eliahu Mazza, Mishael Cheshin and Zvi Tal afterward, in their decision. "[The committee's] members will reflect, in a balanced fashion, the entire gamut of opinions on religious-secular relations in Jerusalem and outside it," the decision continued. "The committee's goal will be to draw up a social contract for ordering these relations in the near future." The government is to report

PROTESTS

(Continued from Page 1) that religious considerations are central and must be taken into account," he said. "I believe that in the end there will be no choice but to build a tunnel to replace Rehov Bar-Ilan," Olmert told reporters, reiterating a proposal he first raised earlier this week aimed at keeping a thoroughfare in the area open on Shabbat without disturbing haredi residents. "A tunnel will ease traffic congestion in the area during the week and also be a solution for Shabbat," Olmert said. The municipality, however, would honor any decision taken by the High Court, Olmert added. Secular activists were delighted with the court's ruling. "We won in the sense that the situation [on Bar-Ilan] will continue to be as it has been in previous years. There will be no change in the status quo," said petitioner Lior Horev, a Labor activist. "And the court understood that it is impossible to separate Bar-Ilan from the general problem of religious-secular relations... which is important." "We got exactly what we wanted," added petitioner Ophir Pines, a Labor MK. "On the one hand, the road will remain open, and on the other, a committee is being

Foreign airlines: Security personnel shortage causing delays at B-G Airport

A SHORTAGE of security personnel at Ben-Gurion airport is causing delays in takeoffs, foreign airline personnel have said. "We have received complaints from passengers who wait 2 1/2 to three hours...until they reach the security inspection. This causes the takeoff delays," said Eli Messer, chairman of the Foreign Airlines Panel. "Sometimes we have to leave passengers behind and take off. Otherwise the plane would sit too long on the ground and we would miss connections," he told Israel Radio. The radio said a survey it had

HAIM SHAPIRO and News Agencies

carried out showed that dozens of passengers had been left behind by foreign and Israeli airlines in recent days. This week, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that some 50 passengers had missed flights to South Africa and to Rome in one morning because of security delays. All passengers leaving the airport are questioned by security personnel who often inspect suitcases and carry-on baggage by hand. Airport director Shaul Hazan said heavy passenger traffic in August

through a single terminal too small to accommodate them, rather than a shortage of inspectors, was responsible for the delays. Hazan said the planned new terminal would ease the strain but even if construction began now, it would not be completed before the year 2000. Last night, Arkia announced that, in order to help ease the pressure at Ben-Gurion, it would open early check-in counters at all of its offices throughout the country. Arkia provides early check-in services for Swissair, British Airways, Lufthansa, and Air Canada.

COL

(Continued from Page 1) Peretz said the low July Col Index had been expected because of the slowdown in the economy. He demanded that Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel reduce the interest rate by at least 2%. "Workers are being dismissed while no new ones are being hired. There is a smell of recession in the air," Peretz said. Tamir blasted Frenkel's policy sharply, noting "one man, unilaterally and without considering any other factor, is creating a destructive policy which has brought us to the brink of disaster."

- "Shmooze"
- "Shabbat Shalom"
- "Chag Sameach"
- "Kvetch"
- "It's A Boy"
- "It's A Girl"
- "Whatever..."

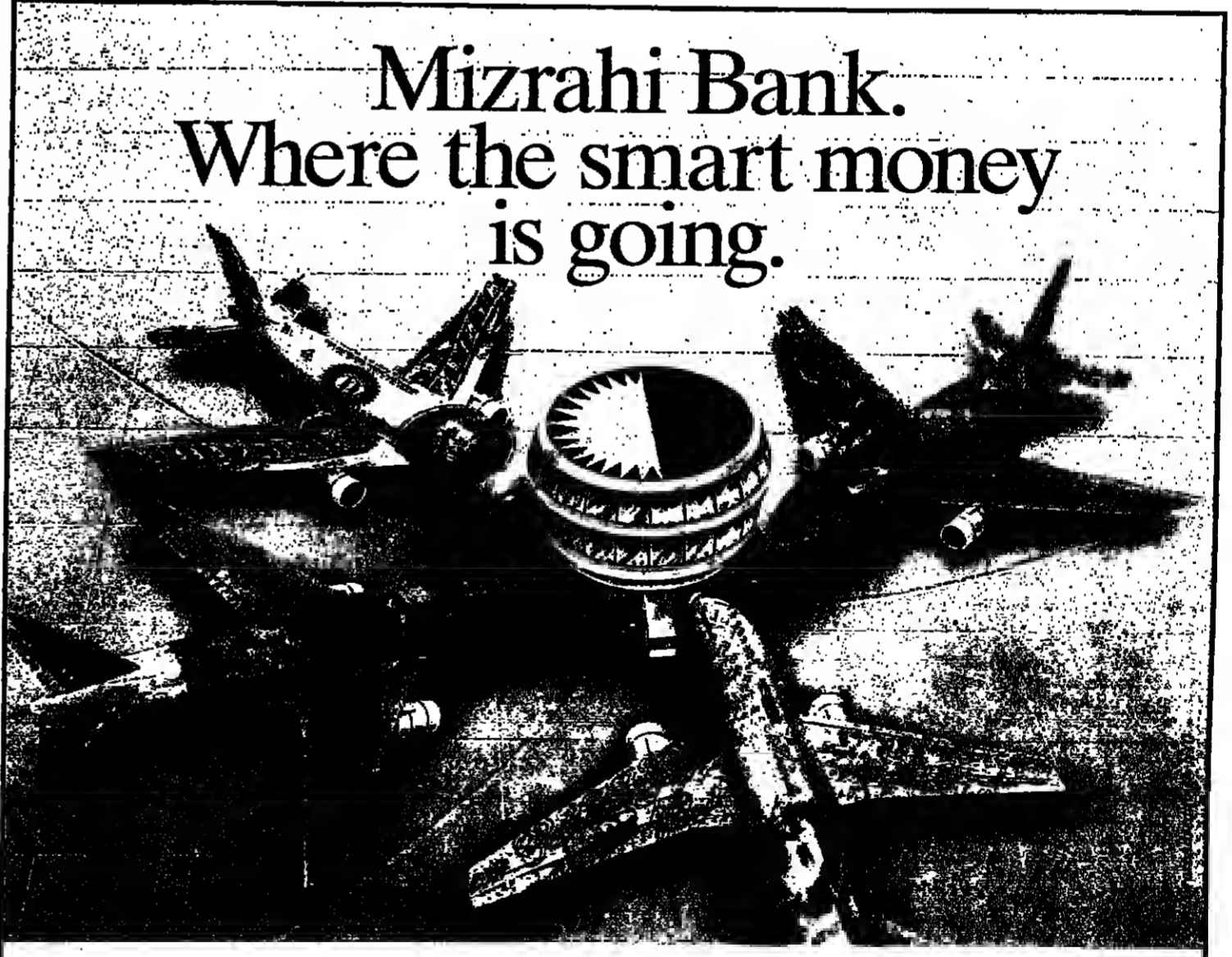
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A 'Golan-esque' situation

ABBA EBAN

One of the iron rules of negotiation is not to offer your adversary something he already possesses. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu asks Syrian President Hafez Assad to forget the Golan Heights and to console himself with "water and security." With an Israeli withdrawal from the security zone as an added dividend.

But water and security are two assets that Assad already holds. With the Euphrates and the Orontes rivers, Syria seems pretty well fixed in the water department.

Similarly, Assad does not have pressing security concerns. If he would restrain the Hizbullah activists, all Syria and Lebanon would be models of tranquility. The security zone is an Israeli headache, not a Syrian one and the liberation of Israel from its headaches has never been an urgent Syrian priority.

Netanyahu has spoken about a Kafkaesque vision in which Israel wishes to leave the security zone in Lebanon but is restrained by Assad's objections. If this were really the situation, the picture would indeed be Kafkaesque. The truth, more accurately described, tells us that Assad has no objection to an Israeli withdrawal from the "security zone," but suspects that this unselfishness is linked in our national policy with total and permanent retention of the Golan Heights. Who can say that this interpretation is wrong?

At the end of the day it will emerge that Israel's problem with Syria is more Golan-esque than Kafkaesque. The idea that it is possible to obtain peace with Syria while maintaining a hundred percent Israeli rule in Golan has its own intrinsic beauty. All it lacks is realism.

Meanwhile, it is consoling to know that the 1974 Disengagement Agreement which I helped to conclude with Syria has been meticulously respected

by both signatories. Those were the days when mere foreign ministers, working with Israeli military chiefs like Mordechai Gur, dealt with such humble tasks as preparing accords capable of lasting 23 years. Nobody then asked whether military chiefs and Foreign Ministry officials should be present together when politico-military agreements are negotiated.

The formulation of a peace treaty always begins with a paragraph ending the state of war. But

No external friendship can compensate the lack of a constructed regional order

the second paragraph determines the boundary between the two parties. It is not hard to imagine how Egyptian President Anwar Sadat would have reacted if Menachem Begin had said: "Let's discuss everything except the boundary in Sinai between Egypt and Israel."

AS IF the Syrian channel were not complex enough, there is deadlock in the Palestinian sector as well. A correspondent has written that on taking office Netanyahu was "surprised to learn" of the large number of occasions on which Yasser Arafat had helped to thwart murderous attacks on Israeli targets.

I was surprised by the premier's surprise. Details of Arafat's anti-terrorist activities were known to our public early in the election campaign. The deeper question is what our government will do with Arafat's anti-terrorist now that it has presumably recovered from its bout of astonishment. If Arafat is

acknowledged to be Israel's partner in the anti-terrorist cause it would be reasonable for Israel's prime minister to celebrate that partnership by consultation and contact. If it is said that Arafat is acting "only" in his own interest, that makes his anti-terrorist more authentic. All governments take their decisions in the name of self-interest and then explain their decisions in the name of self-sacrificial altruism.

It did not take Yitzhak Rabin more than a single day to solve the psychological problem involved in the historic handshake, which has since come to symbolize the inherent solubility of all international conflicts. Netanyahu still agonizes. By that difference, and several others, Rabin confirmed that he was the greater of the two men - and paid the full price.

The details of the Oslo Agreement are less important than its central message. So long as the Arab attitude was to regard Israel as an artificial entity imposing discontinuity on its own region, Israeli rhetoric about the outstretched hand was important only in the world of cities and images. That was an important world in its time and I do not regret of my place in it. But this reason or excuse lapsed in 1988 when even the US proclaimed, through US Secretary of State George Schultz, that Arab sentiment had moved towards pragmatism and change.

The Rabin and Peres administrations were the first to make relations with the neighboring world the central theme of Israel's national policy. They realized - belatedly - that no external friendship can compensate for the absence of a laboriously constructed regional order.

Netanyahu should not dismantle this achievement for the sake of a few superfluous caravans.

The writer is a former foreign minister.



Looking in, looking out

P. DAVID HORNIK

Recent revelations of a Yigal Amir fan club among religious schoolgirls prompted calls in the Labor Party for an investigation and a crackdown.

Labor MKs noted that "murder is murder is murder," and is never justified by political views or political despair. Talking that profound truth to heart, some in Labor have started to do some soul-searching of their own.

"We feel ongoing horror both at the assassination and at the assassin," says a high-ranking party official. "But it's true that, over the past three years, our own party gave a certain legitimization to murder."

He continued, "It's strange that while Amir, who murdered one person, is where he belongs - locked up for good - another murderer, responsible for the deaths of thousands, has been elevated into a statesman and completely absolved of his crimes."

The official confirmed that the reference was to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. "I'm not suggesting," he hastened to add, "that Arafat should be apprehended and indicted. I'm just saying the incongruity has started to bother some of us."

When I asked another well-placed party member if he was having second thoughts about excusing Arafat, he explained: "Giving Arafat a political role was unavoidable, justified by the need for peace. Politics make strange bedfellows. After all, during World War II, the democracies accepted Stalin as an ally."

He admitted, though, that while it was one thing to give Arafat political power for pragmatic reasons, it was quite another to fawn over him and glorify him.

Asked what he meant, he referred, first, to former prime minister Shimon Peres's strange penchant for hugging, kissing, and holding hands with the PA chief. "That was excessive," he acknowledged. "It seemed insensitive to the feelings of many in Israel."

He also referred to Rabin and Peres's joint acceptance, with Arafat, of the Nobel Peace Prize. "I gave the wrong signal," said the official. "I mean, here you had the two top representatives of the Jewish State, jointly receiving the

It's one thing to give Arafat political power; another to glorify him

world's most prestigious award for peace with a man who was the arch-terrorist of the 20th century."

This might have been mitigated, I pointed out, if Arafat was at least repentant. But that is hardly the case, considering his continuing to call for holy war against Israel, sheltering terrorists on his soil, and heading a regime that tortures people to death.

The official agreed. "I repeat," he said, "that I don't think we had any practical alternatives to Oslo. But that doesn't mean we had to ignore the principle that murder is murder is murder by treating Arafat as a noble visionary."

TALKING TO another well-placed source in the party, I

brought up the matter of the Rabin-Peres government's releasing of thousands of convicted murderers from prison as a political measure.

"It certainly contributed to a cheapening of the value of human life," the source conceded. "Many of these people had committed heinous murders and had only served a small part of their sentences. That doesn't mean I think the policy was mistaken," he went on. "Releasing these people was absolutely necessary for achieving peace. Still, we could have taken more seriously the moral problems that were involved."

"It's not just that thousands of proven murderers are now roaming free - though we made some of them sign statements repudiating violence. It's also the message this gives. Either murder is a crime that requires punishment, or it isn't. We can't have it both ways."

These conversations left me with a feeling of encouragement. Now that right-wing politicians have condemned the phenomenon of the Amir fan club and Education Minister Zvulun Hammer (National Religious Party) has appointed a committee to look into the matter, and now that left-wing politicians have started to reflect about problematic aspects of the Rabin-Peres government's policies, I'm optimistic that the nation is on a path of healing and reconciliation.

The author is a writer and translator living in Jerusalem.

Self-service in the military

YOSSI GOELL

It's now official: IDF Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak has acknowledged that there is a serious problem of morale in the army and in the readiness of draft-age youth and reservists to serve.

Only a week ago President Ezer Weizman, a former defense minister and IAF commander, denied there was any such problem. The truth, as Weizman and all the other would-be under-the-carpet sweepers well know, is that the problem has existed and has been growing in severity since at least the 1982 Lebanon War.

The main result of failing to openly recognize the problem is to ensure that nothing will be done about it.

Shahak and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai have finally decided to come out of the closet. As banal as it may sound, setting up a committee to study the problem, as Mordechai proposes, is unavoidable.

Since the question of what has happened to our national morale encompasses so many aspects of our life, it would be a serious mistake to set up a narrowly focused in-house IDF or Defense Ministry committee. If there ever was a need for a prestigiously staffed state commission of inquiry this is certainly such a case.

Our religious and secular cultural traditions of the past 18 centuries - since the bloody suppres-

sion of the Bar Kochba revolt of 135 CE - have been vigorously anti-militaristic. Our deeply entrenched attitudes that military careers and values were reprehensible began to change only in the 1940s, in response to the imminent demise of the Mandate and to the helplessness of European Jewry in the face of the Holocaust.

We won the War of Independence in 1948 by the skin of our teeth because of a tremendous outpouring of patriotism and a readiness of many to risk their lives for the future of the Jewish people. That victory, however, was won at a tremendous cost of over 6,000 killed because our earlier heritage did not allow us to field a very effective army. We had more morale than military know-how.

FEW TODAY remember how awful the IDF was in the early 1950s when the patriotic exhilaration of 1948 had begun to wear off. The IDF became the justly world-renowned army it is after the 1967 Six Day War. The fact that we were capable of develop-

ing such a fantastic army despite our contradictory heritage was nothing short of a miracle.

Such miracles can be reversed easily if we do not exercise eternal vigilance against the periodic outcropping of our long-established instincts. That is why the most prestigious commission of inquiry possible is needed to study and propose ways of dealing with this problem.

Israeli society has become

basic thrust of the Oslo initiative, I would argue that the late Yitzhak Rabin, if pressed to doff his politician's hat, would have been the first to admit that peace is not around the corner; that an agreement with our immediately surrounding Arab enemies was essential to permit us to concentrate our attention on the more deadly threats from more distant Arab and Moslem enemies.

The problem of how to divide the security burden much more fairly is a very pressing one. This includes the need to train a much higher proportion of our conscript soldiers for front-line duty.

Soldiers who do serve in front-line combat units should be given preference in jobs, university admittance and housing mortgages. Conversely, men who refuse to serve, whether haredim, Arabs or conscientious objectors, should be taxed to provide funding for such preferential treatment for those who do. Above all, it is essential to reverse the political and social legitimization of those who refuse to serve.

We should also, at long last, get around to setting up meaningful and nationally useful alternative National Service posts and broaden the areas in which women can serve usefully in the army and in these other frameworks.

The writer comments on current affairs.

We must reverse the political and social legitimization of those who refuse to serve

TO OUR READERS

Please note that the number 5 has been added to all the phone and fax numbers of the main office of The Jerusalem Post (all starting with the number 3).

For example, the phone number of the switchboard 315666 - is now 531- 5666

Other changes: the phone number of the J.P. Funds is now 623-3986; of the Book Department and Post Mart, 624-1282, and their fax number is 624-1212.

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WORLD NEWS

Lebed scrambles for Chechen peace

GROZNY (Reuters) - Alexander Lebed, Moscow's new peacemaker in Chechnya, yesterday scrambled for ways to end bitter fighting in the regional capital Grozny as thousands of civilians took advantage of a lull to flee the city.

As the gruff former paratrooper general talked, a flood of refugees heading out of Grozny seemed to gather strength. The city has been relatively calm since Wednesday as thousands of well-armed rebels consolidate their control following more than a week of the worst fighting the region has seen in 18 months.



Bob Dole gestures as he secures the Republican nomination for president while watching television coverage of the convention in San Diego. Dole's wife Elizabeth (from left), Iowa Senator Charles Grassley, and Joanne and Jack Kemp, the vice-presidential candidate look on.

Dole claims nomination

IN the proudest moment of his long political life, Bob Dole claimed the Republican nomination last night and launched a campaign against President Clinton on themes of character, leadership and tax cuts.

TERENCE HUNT SAN DIEGO

Kansas, during the Depression, his struggle as a disabled veteran and his rise to power in the Congress where he served 35 years.

with sarcasm about Dole's tax-cutting program. "Which Bob Dole will show up (last night) - the Bob Dole who for 35 years fought budget deficits or the Bob Dole who last week was convened to supply-side economics?"

Tough talking Ciller arrives in Cyprus

NICOSIA (AP) - Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller came to the Turkish Cypriot part of this tense, divided island yesterday to push her government's tough stance on the decades-long conflict.

35 electrocuted in Peru accident

LIMA (AP) - An electrical cable dangled by a misfired rocket electrocuted 35 people, some of whom burst into flames as they watched a fireworks display in the southern Peruvian city of Arequipa, officials said yesterday.

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved ARNOLD ANDERMANN ז"ל

In loving memory of Dr. ERICH (Burschi) NEUBERGER who passed away on July 30, 1988.

To our Mom and Grandma MICHAL HALEVI We share your sorrow at the loss of BENJAMIN ז"ל

A memorial ceremony and unveiling of the tombstone for the late FREDA SIMBLER

On Sunday, August 18, 1996, the tenth anniversary of his death we will remember YOHANAN BOEHM

South African justice minister flees death threats

CAPE TOWN (AP) - Death threats have forced South Africa's justice minister to flee his home in a Cape Town neighborhood where gangs and anti-drug vigilantes are at war.

released on a bond of 10,000 rands (\$2,300) bond yesterday. The government has not detailed the sedition charges against Edries, who next appears in court on Sept. 17, but prosecutors have said the charges relate to his leadership role in Pagad, which has threatened to take on the state.

Rylands. Omar's house has been under police guard since March, when armed Pagad protesters pushed their way into his home to demand stiffer bail conditions and heavier sentences for drug offenders.

Sarajevans thank Christopher for helping their nation

SARAJEVO (AP) - The people of Sarajevo, liberated from war and headed toward elections, poured from their bomb-scarred homes yesterday to thank US Secretary of State Warren Christopher for help rebuilding their lives and their nation.

other stops he accepted a gift of a whisk broom and a T-shirt inscribed "Sarajevo '96."

American visitor. The memory alone reminds us of times past. Before leaving for home, Christopher went on Bosnian television and said that he saw glimmers of coming peace on his last visit, six months ago.

Korea student clashes continue

SEOUL (AP) - Bloody battles raged for the fourth day yesterday at a Seoul campus between riot police and militant students calling for unification with communist North Korea.

The confrontation came as South Korean President Kim Young-sam renewed his offer of massive economic aid to North Korea at the impoverished country agrees to peace talks.

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I ♥ Yigal Amir: What it says about our schools

The emergence of a Yigal Amir fan club is regarded by some as a result of the religious schooling system but by others as a platform for typical teenage rebellion, reports Jessica Steinberg



Yigal Amir in court: Psychologist Stuart Chesner characterizes the fan club as 'one of those situations that crosses the lines of what is acceptable according to adult society.' (Chen Elbaz)

THE WORD FAN is short for fanatic; as in one who expresses impulses and drives characterized by uncritical devotion. Fan clubs are often focused around people or groups that are on the fringes of society, those whose style, sound or opinions reflect the margins, rather than the main body of our culture.

According to local clinical child psychologist Dr. Stuart Chesner, adolescents are particularly attracted to fan clubs, as they are a forum that allows them to express impulses of a sexual or aggressive nature.

The Yigal Amir fan club, set up by three girls in a Kiryat Gat school, is no exception, says Chesner, because it falls along the same lines, as an expression of rebellion against the standards of society.

"That is the norm for adolescents because they're searching for their identity and they're struggling with their internal impulses," he says. "Adolescents crave passion in life and given their unconscious sexual aggressive impulses, some act with blatant inappropriateness while most can draw the line." Adolescents tend to draw that invisible line at a place that is uncomfortable for the adults surrounding them, such

as dyeing their hair purple, listening to raucous rock music espousing Satan worship or organizing a fan club worshipping their prime minister's assassin.

Chesner characterizes the Yigal Amir fan club as one of those situations that crosses the lines of what is acceptable according to adult society. "They're not doing it because they think that Amir is such a great figure," he explains. "Creating a fan club doesn't stem from any kind of intellectual understanding of the issues, and it's not done out of philosophical reasoning."

"It's just their basic emotional drive, and trying to redirect that drive with educational values and lessons won't work and won't change the phenomenon."

Chesner touches upon the current battle being waged between the Education Ministry and certain members of the Knesset Labor faction who have sharply criticized the religious state education system, saying that religious students are isolated from democratic influences and calling for an end to the separation between religious and secular educational institutions. The fan club members, Kiryat Gat school and the Ministry of Education have insisted that this is an isolated

phenomenon; not one that is prevalent throughout the religious school education system. Education Minister Zevulun Hammer stated that the national religious school system condemns right-wing extremism and has been combating such trends with programs and courses in

coexistence and religious tolerance. According to Chesner, lessons in coexistence are not going to solve the problem. "An adolescent has very little awareness of their emotional forces," he says. "What they need to be doing is discussing the confusion that they're experiencing and

exploring how that confusion is manifesting itself. If you look at the educational system on an ideological level, you have to connect that ideology with passion in order to modify an adolescent's behavior."

Chesner also points out that debating what types of religious

texts will be used to teach teenagers right from wrong is not necessarily the issue here. The education ministry has been emphasizing the Jewish element in discussing the Rabin assassination, utilizing Jewish values and Jewish texts which they believe will illustrate the need to think in terms of tolerance and mutual understanding within society.

AT MELITZ, a non-profit organization that specializes in informal, pluralistic education for the Israeli community, director Avraham Infeld finds fault with the ministry's educational direction on this issue.

Infeld comments that by separating those who teach democratic lessons from those who focus on religious education, the distinction is made between the concepts and an opportunity is given to conclude that they are separate issues. "If the Ministry of Education wants to solve this matter, they must see that those involved in Jewish education, namely those teaching texts and sources, must also be able to deal with and teach democratic educational values," he says.

Infeld cautions that the religious Zionists should treat the fan club as a wakeup call, warning them about the fringe impulses within their midst and protecting themselves against such elements. "You should see the kids I meet and the things I hear," he continues. "Yes, the club is an aberration and many people in the religious world were shocked and horrified by it and what it represents. But there are students who see no connection between Jewish and democratic values and they must be taught to see the connection between the two."

Melitz works very intensely with Israeli high school students,

both secular and religious, attempting to breach cultural elements that are often exacerbated in the national school system. Shalom Orzach, director of the international department at Melitz, stresses the need to recognize what he considers to be the growing imbalance in a typical Israeli high school religious Zionist education.

"The question is how to teach religious kids about religion and Zionism," says Orzach, a knitted-kippah-wearer who somewhat disparages the trend toward utilizing simplistic Jewish law theory and biblical analogies in coexistence education.

"It's not the same in secular schools where they have the ability to deal with differences. In religious schools, they tend to think that their way is the only way, that they know 'the truth.' They're very into these patronizing phrases."

"It's a question of prioritizing," he adds. "We need value clarification. We need to find our own answers, we need to establish a level of debate regarding these issues."

CHESNER would agree, charging that it's the adults' responsibility to help adolescents redirect and redefine their internal thoughts and experiences, letting them find healthier outlets. For now, the Education Ministry is continuing to invest heavily in their current courses and programs, insisting that they've received favorable responses from the students, and emphasizing that the Yigal Amir fan club is an exception to the rule.

"Fan clubs are isolated to particular individuals," says a ministry spokesperson. "What they need is some education, and fast."

(Continued from Page 7) commit suicide to implement an Islamic platform," a government analyst says. "He made a religious kind of tool to fulfill his ambitions."

A senior government official agrees. "Erbakan is promising much more than he can deliver," he says. "He's in partnership with Ciller and therefore has to show

that he's independent."

Most Israeli officials don't believe Erbakan will do anything drastic against Israel. Indeed, they say the Turkish prime minister might have succeeded in convincing much of the Arab world to drop its opposition to the existing military cooperation between Turkey and Israel. They say Erbakan defended Turkey's mili-

tary cooperation agreement in talks with Iranian leaders and offered them a similar accord.

One government official points out that one of Erbakan's first acts as prime minister was to study the secret Turkish-Israeli military accord. Erbakan, the official says, concluded that the accord is not against Turkey's interest in the Arab world and

cooperation agreement in talks with Iranian leaders and offered them a similar accord.

Two weeks ago, Gul, disputing the assertions of the Foreign Ministry, insisted Ivry would not be coming to Turkey to sign the defense industrial cooperation agreement with Israel. He added that he did not expect Turkey to sign another defense pact with Israel.

"The Foreign Ministry is a separate ministry," Gul told reporters on August 1. "I am speaking according to the prime minister."

Moreover, as prime minister Erbakan has refused all Israeli appeals for a dialogue. He has failed to respond to a message sent by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. Israeli officials add that he has even prevented Welfare Party moderates from talking to the Israeli Embassy in Ankara.

Instead, Erbakan has allowed the military and the Foreign Ministry to relay messages to Israel. In one recent message, Turkish defense officials told their Israeli counterparts that the military wants to continue cooperation with Israel. "They said they perceived it as being in their national interests," a government source says.

On Friday, Ciller told Israel's ambassador to Ankara, Zvi Alpeleg, that her government remains committed to its accords with Israel. She also repeated that she must approve all major foreign policy decisions made by Erbakan.

TURKEY

"So far Erbakan hasn't done anything [against Israel]," the Dayan Ceator's Shmuelovitz says. "He is operating in parallel situation. He is trying to build ties with the Islamic world. But he has made a calculation that it is not worth starting up with Israel."

Some Israeli officials disagree. They say Abdullah Gul, Erbakan's foreign policy adviser, has proven to be the most effective director of Turkey's foreign policy, undermining the credibility of Ciller and the Foreign Ministry.

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Israeli Foreign Ministry officials hope that Erbakan will agree to Ivry's visit soon after his return from this week's Asian tour. In Ankara, Ivry hopes to sign several agreements with Turkey, including a \$650 million deal for Israel to upgrade Turkey's F-4 Phantom jets.

Sull, the Foreign Ministry is not ruling out further delays. Officials say the Turkish military, no matter how upset it is, will probably not repeat its 1980 takeover, particularly over an issue that involves Israel. Indeed, they recall, in the weeks following the army takeover, Turkey downgraded relations with Israel to the level of second secretary.

"Erbakan will go to the brink," one official says. "It's reasonable to think that he will take steps, both symbolic and substantial, to stop or slow down the normalization with Israel. It's a scenario we are taking into account. But this is a long way from cancelling the accords or severing relations. This won't happen tomorrow. Even though we don't expect a honeymoon with Israel, we don't expect a disaster either."

In the end, Israeli officials say what counts will be the US reaction to Erbakan. Officials were disturbed by what they perceived was the encouragement by some in the Clinton administration to allow Erbakan to head the Turkish government. Later, the US said a secular Turkey is not a condition for relations with Washington.

Israeli officials now say Washington has been turned around. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns this week praised the Israeli-Turkish military accord, something US officials rarely did in the past. To Israeli officials, the statement was a reminder to Ankara to resume the pro-Israel policies of

the previous government.

Alan Makovsky, a senior fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, says the Clinton administration should keep Turkey as an ally but "oothing should be done to suggest warmth for or solicitedness to this particular government and its leader should be kept at arm's length."

Makovsky, in a policy paper published last week by the Washington Institute, also advocates that Erbakan's words as well as his deeds be scrutinized. Turkey is a Western power, Makovsky says, and rhetoric such as US imperialism, Jewish perfidy or Zionist plots should not be tolerated.

Erbakan's trip to Iran convinced many in Washington that the new prime minister might prove dangerous to the US, Makovsky says. For one thing, he says, US officials now regard Erbakan as a major player, rather than a figurehead, in foreign policy.

The next indication of Erbakan's intentions, Makovsky says, is the signing of the military accords with Israel, particularly the one that would upgrade the US F-4 jets in the Turkish air force. "If those get derailed, then we know we have a significant turn in Turkish policy," he says.

But, he adds, don't expect Washington to get directly involved to help Israel. The Clinton administration's priority will be maintaining its own ties with Ankara, particularly ensuring its membership in NATO.

"The US will draw important policy inferences if something like that [a Turkish refusal to sign the accords with Israel] will happen," he says. "But I can't see the US trying to change a decision of that type. I can't see the US making an issue on a par with NATO or Operation Provide Comfort or with ties to Iran."

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هَذَا مِنَ الْأَطْلَعِ

A woman's job is never done

Esther Pollard, wife of imprisoned spy Jonathan, talks about her just-ended hunger strike, which aimed to stimulate awareness about her husband's plight. Judy Siegel-Itzkovich reports

JERUSALEM'S downtown "Triangle" is a mecca for people seeking immediate gratification. Hunger and thirst are quenched with pizza, ice cream and fashionable fruit-flavored iced tea. An impulse for a new shirt, dress or piece of jewelry is appeased with a quick dash into a trendy shop and payment by credit card.

How ironic that such a materialistic location was chosen by one woman to starve herself in a desperate effort to free her husband - convicted spy Jonathan Pollard - from prison and to save his life.

Yesterday was the 19th and last day of Esther Pollard's hunger strike outside the Hamashbir Le'Tzarchan department store; doctors say the average person can live without food for about two months. Lying on a foam-rubber mattress and pillows under the eaves of the building, she spent eight hours a day in the intense August heat. Her routine started

Hamashbir - she received no response from the premier or his aides to her letters and appeals. "A well-known foreign attorney who was never authorized to speak on our behalf interfered in the dealings between the Prime Minister's Office and myself," Pollard claims.

"The government has many means and tools at its disposal, both tactical and diplomatic; the premier can avail himself of these to convey a very clear message to Mr. Clinton that the only acceptable response is the immediate release of Jonathan Pollard and his immediate return home to Israel. Netanyahu knows exactly how to play these cards in order to make the pressure on the president unbearable."

National Religious Party faction leader MK Hanan Porat visited Pollard on Monday and suggested inviting her to the Knesset building, having Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy raise the Pollard issue in the plenum and demanding that Netanyahu contact

been turned down three times by the US president. "He has been the scapegoat exploited by antisemitic elements within the US administration, to call into question Israel's reliability as an ally," she declares.

"What I am doing is neither fun nor easy," she says with a sigh. "But we have no other choice. We've tried everything else: demonstrations, full-page newspaper advertisements, letter-writing campaigns. My husband is dying by inches, and there is no other way to save him."

The department store's showcased mannequins, with their frozen smiles and fashionable clothes, are Pollard's constant companions. But throughout the day, she was visited by a steady stream of sympathizers - young and old, religious and secular - who shook her hand, inquired about her health, signed her petition and wished her success.

Wearing her trademark blue-jeans dress with long sleeves, stockings, a wig covering her hair (for religious and practical reasons), her face devoid of makeup and her tongue coated white, the Canadian-born woman initially vowed she wouldn't eat again until her husband is free. Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau implored her to stop fasting. Former chief rabbi Mordechai Eliahu, whom her husband regards as "his rabbi" and who visited him last week, "blessed me and did not tell me to stop." Eliahu was present at her meeting with the premier yesterday at which the decision was taken to end the strike.

Pollard, who was in solitary confinement for seven out of his 11 years in high-security prisons, calls her every day from the penitentiary in Butler, North Carolina. "There are 200 prisoners and two pay telephones in his wing. He has to wait in line for his turn, but he does it," says Esther, who was born to a traditional Montreal family over 40 years ago and has become increasingly observant in recent years.



Esther Pollard in front of Jerusalem's Hamashbir department store, where so far over 70,000 people have signed her petition. (Brian Heuler)

never been lonely. Everyone is out for himself today. People get out of marriages when they're not comfortable. There isn't enough responsibility of one spouse for the other. When Jonathan is free, I can't wait to leave the public eye. I'll be happy just ironing his shirts. All I want on my grave-stone, when my time comes, is 'Here lies the wife of Jonathan Pollard.'



Esther and Jonathan Pollard at their wedding in prison.

with waking at dawn in a room lent to her by a woman supporter before then going to a nearby public relations office, which had donated its phones and fax machines for her use. By 10 a.m. she would be outside Hamashbir. With a water bottle in one hand and a cellular phone in the other, she held her hunger strike to arouse the Jewish people to the plight of her husband. "I ask them not to worry about me, but to pray for my husband, Yonatan ben Malka, to recite Psalms and light Shabbat candles for him."

Over 70,000 people have so far signed her petition demanding that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu take urgent, determined action so that US President Bill Clinton will immediately commute Jonathan's life sentence. Some came specially to see her from as far away as Ma'alot and Eilat. They brought flowers for Shabbat, copies of letters they had sent to him in prison, even juice and soup that she would not allow herself to eat. She says her diet during the strike consisted of only water, sugar and salts (electrolytes) to reduce the risk of collapse. Occasionally, a doctor would volunteer to check her blood pressure, but she was not under regular medical supervision.

Before ending the strike, she noted: "I don't feel hungry anymore. The body thinks there's a famine and nearly shuts down the metabolism. But it does make me weak." She fainted after only two days of fasting and was rushed to Bikur Holim Hospital, but refused to eat and was discharged after being treated intravenously.

She chose the top of Ben-Yehuda Street for her hunger strike because "lots of people pass by here." She came to Jerusalem for her protest and not the street adjacent to the White House because she was dissatisfied with Netanyahu's past efforts on her husband's behalf. She denies statements by the Prime Minister's Office that he raised the Pollard case with Clinton during the two leaders' recent meetings in the White House. And - until her 17th day, outside

Clinton about it immediately. Communications Minister Limor Livnat sat with Pollard at the Knesset, was favorably impressed and urged the premier to see her. Netanyahu met with her for 40 minutes in what she called "a very good encounter. He understood that I haven't gone on the hunger strike to embarrass or hurt him." A Netanyahu spokesman said he told her about his efforts to achieve Jonathan Pollard's release and promised her the government would continue to work towards his release. "Netanyahu appealed to her to halt her hunger strike so she could 'continue as an important part of the struggle for his release,'" but she refused until a second meeting with the premier last night.

After the first meeting she said: "For over a year, my husband wouldn't even consider my going on a hunger strike. He would have liked to do it himself, but he would be severely punished for it in prison. And now, both he and I know that if I resumed eating, two days later everyone will forget him. My condition reflects the deterioration of his condition. He works hard physical labor. His immune system is shot. I don't know how much longer he can hang on."

UNLIKE the handful of other Americans who spied for US allies and were sentenced to only two to four years' imprisonment, Pollard got life, and his requests for clemency or commutation have

SHE FIRST MET him during a youth program in Israel in 1971, but each returned home and they had no further contact. Six years ago, she was a volunteer working as an intern for a government ministry in Jerusalem and teaching English at the Hebrew University when a friend showed her a newspaper article asking people to write to Jonathan Pollard in prison. "I didn't remember his name and had never heard of his case, but I write letters at the drop of a hat... I always carry aerograms around with me. I wrote him a letter. About 25 letters were brought to him in his cell, and he was allowed only two stamps. He decided to send both to me."

Their correspondence became more intense, and she soon became Pollard's chief spokeswoman. Three years ago, Esther (a childless divorcee who had married young and for a short time) and Jonathan (who had previously divorced his wife Anne, who had served a prison sentence for her involvement in the affair) married in prison. Esther declines to give details. After the prison wedding, she made a "good living" teaching special-education classes for disabled children in Toronto. All her income went to support the campaign. "My monthly phone bill alone is \$1,000. We never raised funds. I don't know where money raised allegedly in Jonathan's name has gone."

In their three years' of marriage, Pollard says, she has frequently been maligne in the press and by some in the Jewish community. "They claimed we never married, that I was unbalanced."

Asked to explain how any rational woman could fall in love with a man sentenced to life imprisonment, she says: "I have had many trials and tribulations in my life, but all were preparation for being Jonathan's wife. He is a *mensch*. He is a Jewish hero," she says. "I never had any shortage of dates," recalls Pollard, who in her youth - then named Elaine Zeitz - had long dark hair and striking looks. "But I was always lonely. Since I married Jonathan, even when I am an ocean away from him, I've

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Stopover in lunatic land on the way to the perfect place

Israel is on the migratory route - for 'hippies,' Larry Derner writes

THEY move in and out of the hostels on Tel Aviv's Allenby Road and Ben Yehuda Street, and in Jerusalem's Old City. They camp at Lake Kinneret and wash dishes in the pubs of Eilat.

Fairer-skinned and lighter-haired than most natives, they're easily identifiable - at times walking around barefoot, and usually wearing expressions that, try as they might, don't hide their sense of vulnerability in Israel.

The derogatory term for them is "hippies," the more respectful one, "travelers." Relaxing on worn-out couches on the patio of The Home Hostel near Tel Aviv's Carmel Market, about a half-dozen told of being on the road for as long as three years. They're en route to or from Egypt, South Africa, the Far East and the rest of the world, and make a point of not knowing when they're going home.

"Traveling is day-to-day living. You don't know what you're going to wake up to, you don't know where you're going to be this afternoon, or tonight. It's like a roller-coaster ride," says Lisa, 22, who left Australia after getting her BA in political science.

Travelers at The Home Hostel include

Dave, 30, a former London bricklayer with a shaven head and an upper body festooned with patriotic British tattoos; Dennis, 21, a mellow fisherman from British Columbia; Nico, 20, a shy, semi-professional actor from Germany; Anna, 26, a Swedish, strikingly blonde college student in Middle Eastern studies; and Mark, 25, a talkative farmer from South Africa.

In Tel Aviv, they work on construction sites, clean houses, waitress or haul furniture, trying to save money for the next leg of their trips. At night, they drink

beer at The Buzz Stop, Leprechaun, Beers or a couple of other nearby pubs frequented by travelers, or they're sacked out in their rooms, tired from long, physical labor.

Israel, they say, is known on the international traveler's circuit as a good place to get short-term work, and an easy jumping-off point to Asia, Europe or Africa. Volunteering at a kibbutz, though, is becoming less popular because it's not a way to save money.

They also don't have many positive things to say about Israelis.

"On the job, it's always, 'Yalla, yalla, chick-chack.' It's a yalla, yalla, chick-chack country. They've got no pride in their work," Dennis says.

"They just paint over the old paint and splatter paint on the floor. If you did that in England, you'd get sacked on the spot," Dave says.

And sometimes, they've found, the

bosses don't pay up.

"Everybody here's gotten stiffed at one or one or another," Lisa says. "But I don't want to give the wrong impression. I've met some great Israelis, and some travelers say they didn't get paid by bosses who I know paid me. But it depends how things are going. If you would have talked to me last week, I would have been more negative about Israelis."

"Most Israelis are rude and obnoxious, but when they get to know you they'll roll out the red carpet for you," Mark says.

"The people in Tel Aviv need a good rain to cool them down a bit," Nico says.

Everyone agrees with a sign on the patio refrigerator: "Such A Small Country, So Many Lunatics," written over a map of Israel.

Anna voices a Scandinavian's complaint: "Being blonde in this country isn't a blessing, it's a curse. Israelis assume right away that I'll go around the corner and have wild sex with them. And the way some of these women look at me - if looks could kill, I would have been dead a long time ago."



'The people in Tel Aviv need a good rain to cool them down a bit,' says a traveler at Tel Aviv's Home Hostel. (Israel Sun)

days and move on.

The atmosphere here is different - instead of a dark, multistory building like other hostels, the Home is an old, white villa with a patio. Rent is NIS 24 a night. There are six beds to a room; other hostels have as many as 30 per room. Outdoor speakers blast rock music.

Travelers help each other out with money - if they know and trust each other. "Keep Your Money Safe," reads a sign on a wall.

"From Thieving Bastards," someone

scrawled underneath.

"We had a spate of thefts recently," says Aaron, the night manager.

Nobody here does drugs, the Home's temporary residents maintain.

"We just drink beers after work," Lisa says.

"Compared to the drug scene among Israelis in Tel Aviv," Nico says, rolling a tobacco cigarette, "I'd say the scene among travelers is pretty clean."

There was one drug-related tragedy at the Home about four years ago, Aaron says - a traveler committed suicide in his

room by deliberately overdosing.

"If we catch people with drugs, we kick them out on the spot," he maintains. Ordinarily, travelers say, the police don't give them trouble. But police raided the Home and many other hostels early this year following media reports about young Israelis frying their brains with LSD in Goa, India, Lisa says.

"They [searched] our rooms and patted us down," she recalls, "but there wasn't anything for them to find."

EILAT, WHERE TRAVELERS stop on their way to Dahab in the Sinai, has gotten the reputation as a bad luck town.

"You can tell when people come back from Eilat - they're like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. They lose it, mentally and physically," Aaron says.

He finds it hard to put his finger on the reason, but suggests, "There's less work and lower pay, so you can't save money, you can't make any progress. There are more rip-offs, too."

Another traveler explains, "There's nothing to do in Eilat so people just drink all the time and waste their money."

For all the spontaneity and carefree quality of their lives, travelers take what they're doing seriously.

"I travel to learn," Lisa says.

They can't explain what they are learning, except with general statements about "all the different kind of people you meet," "all the different cultures" and "getting involved in other people's lifestyles."

They say they have a goal, vague and all-encompassing as it is.

"I'm looking for my perfect place, my destiny, my niche," Dennis says. "I'll go to Africa, and if it's not there I'll go to Asia, and if it's not there I'll go to Central America and if it's not there I'll go to South America. And when the time comes that you can go to Mars, I'll go to Mars."

Their patience is running thin

Unequal schooling, the blood scandal and the Falash Mura problem still plague the Ethiopian community, Sue Fishkoff reports

NEWLY elected Labor MK Adisu Massala doesn't appear to be softening his political tone in deference to his new Knesset position.

Massala is widely acknowledged as the country's foremost Ethiopian activist. Ever since walking out of Ethiopia across the Sudanese desert to Israel in 1980, he has been at the forefront of every demonstration for Ethiopian immigrant rights, and has been president of the United Ethiopian Jewish Organization - the umbrella group for all Ethiopian rights groups - since its inception.

He's also the first Ethiopian address for government and international Jewish agencies, the person they turn to when they need a bridge to the Ethiopian immigrant community. He's worked with the Jewish

Agency, the Absorption Ministry and the Histadrut on Ethiopian affairs, and was flown to Addis Ababa to help out with the 36-hour airlift during Operation Solomon in May 1991.

By now he's a professional at the game of political give-and-take, adept at putting forward the partisan interests of his community while gently stroking the egos of government officials holding the purse-strings.

Now as the Ethiopian community's first Knesset representative, the stakes are higher, but so are the potential rewards.

IN HIS FIRST interview with *The Jerusalem Post* since his election, Massala wants to discuss the successes of his community before

turning to the many problems it continues to face. "Our first success in the army," he states, noting that there are 62 Ethiopian-born IDF officers, including nine women. Approximately 95 percent of Ethiopian 18 year old males serve in the military, and their high motivation is often noted by IDF brass. That motivation, Massala says, stems from pride and a desire to integrate more quickly into native Israeli society. "We see military service as a right, not an obligation," he states. "It's our chance to return something of what the State has given us. Even boys with medical problems try to hide them so they can go to elite combat units, which they see as their entry ticket to [sabral] society."

Massala also points to the 1,000 Ethiopian university students and 80 graduates as another success for the community as a whole. According to an on-going survey by the JDC-Brookdale Institute, a leading research center on social issues, all those university graduates are employed in their fields except for men doing their compulsory military service and women who have chosen to become full-time mothers.

"Israelis consider us a nice, polite, but disadvantaged community," Massala says. "That's not good

enough. We want Ethiopian-born politicians, engineers, artists, actors, lawyers and soccer stars. Then our young people will be able to hold their heads up high."

Increased numbers of army officers and university students has not helped the community's social integration, he says, which continues to be the most vexing problem confronting Ethiopian immigrants today. Widespread educational imbalance is, he believes, at the root of the problem. He points a finger straight at the Religious Affairs Ministry, which decided in the mid-'80s and again following Operation Solomon to put all Ethiopian children into national religious schools, ostensibly on religious grounds.

In fact, Massala has charged for years, the decision was based on economic and political considerations. "Our children were put in failing schools that would have been closed down for lack of pupils if not for the influx of Ethiopians," he charges. Thousands of new pupils strengthened the bargaining position of the national religious schools when they requested greater funding, he continues. "It's kind of absurd, when you realize that on one hand, the rabbinate questioned our Jewish identity, and on the other hand, we were all put in religious

schools." And the Ethiopian children were not put in the better religious schools, Massala says, which only perpetuated the educational imbalance. "Weak teachers come to weak schools," he notes. "Our children can't get ahead that way."

Recently, efforts have been made to send Ethiopian children to integrated schools. JDC figures show that 95 percent studied in integrated schools as of December '95. Massala says that figure is deceptive, claiming that the schools are still at least 80 percent Ethiopian, and the other 20 percent are children from broken or disadvantaged homes, who need as much extra help as the immigrants.

"If this government is serious about helping the Ethiopian community, it must first send our children to better schools, according to their percentage of the population," he declares. "The new school year is starting soon, and nothing has been done." "Education is the key to our future," he states. "In Israeli society, a BA is a minimum requirement for good jobs." Most Ethiopian parents, he continues, have no higher education at all, and work in factory or clerical positions for monthly wages of NIS 2,000. And Ethiopian families continue to be larger than typical sabra families. Consequently,



Massala: We want Ethiopian-born politicians, engineers, artists, actors, lawyers and soccer stars. Then our young people will be able to hold their heads up high. Isaac Harari

there is no money left over for parents to supplement their children's education with trips to museums, films, computer games or even afterschool activities in community centers. All these things cost money, Massala notes.

"Ethiopian families aren't able to fill the holes left by the school system," he notes. He calls on the Education Ministry to offer quality afternoon programs for Ethiopian children in order to close that educational and social gap.

Massala also blasts the recommendations of the Navon Committee assigned to look into the Magen David Adom blood donation

scandal, a committee to which he was appointed and from which he was later removed. The committee did not find a socially-acceptable solution to the problem, he charges, and continues the policy of "collective punishment" of the community as a whole.

"Sixty-thousand Ethiopian Jews have become 'suspicious objects,'" he charges. "And we don't lack stereotypes already. Adding a medical stigma hurts our absorption."

"None of us wants to endanger someone else's blood. When I donate blood, it's with all good intentions, to help society. We need a compromise. Why don't they take my blood and check it, like they do with English or American blood?"

MASSALA IS also very concerned about the Falash Mura, the approximately 4,000 Ethiopian Jews who converted to Christianity over the past century and who have now returned to Jewish practice and want to come to Israel. They live in a camp in Addis Ababa while their files are checked individually by an Interior Ministry official sitting in Jerusalem. About 100 are cleared for immigration each month.

One of Massala's campaign pledges was to find a swift, humane solution to the Falash Mura immigration bottleneck. While stating that he supports the policy of checking each individual claim, he insists that bureaucratic disregard is slowing the process down inexcusably.

After the elections, Massala wrote to the prime minister and the Interior Ministry, urging action on the Falash Mura. He was scheduled to meet with the Interior Minister this week, but Netanyahu has not responded to his appeal. "If there's no response by the High Holidays, we won't sit quietly," he warns. "We'll take action, we'll hold press conferences, and I promise you that I'll be leading them."

The patience of the Ethiopian community is wearing thin, Massala explains. "The young generation is Israeli in every way, thank God," he notes. "They speak out aggressively, like Israelis, with plenty of hutzpa. If that generation doesn't see its situation improving, they won't sit on their hands as we did. They'll demonstrate and hold more protests." Time is running out, he continues. "If Israel doesn't solve this problem, in a few years it will be too late, and all of society will suffer," he warns. "Israel today is paying the price of the absorption mistakes of the 1950s. The country doesn't seem to have learned its lesson."

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CNN blurs reality in the face of real evil

GUEST COLUMNIST
ANDREA LEVIN

CNN's July 28th special, "Acts of Terror," presented in collaboration with Time magazine, should be studied in journalism schools.

It is a guide to the ills of the profession, and above all to the menace of anti-Israel bias. CNN anchor Bernard Shaw introduced the 90-minute program as a "report in depth" on both the Olympic bombing and the July 17th crash of TWA Flight 800 off Long Island.

Commentary turned to the topic of Middle East terrorism and "why the United States has been targeted with increasing frequency." Scott MacLeod, veteran correspondent for Time, provided the answer: Israel.

He said, "If the crash of TWA Flight 800 did have Middle East origins it is worth taking a closer look at why somebody might per-

form such a deed. Middle East terrorism is rooted in the conflicts that followed colonialism. Much of this violence has surrounded the creation of Israel.

"When Jewish nationalists made their state, they did so at the expense of local Arabs, who lost homes, property and no less important, their dignity. That was nearly 50 years ago and the wounds have never healed," MacLeod continued. "Even moderate Muslims believe that America gives Israel the green light to oppress Moslems. Washington is seen as the hand that controls puppet Arab regimes who made peace with Israel."

More particularly, according to the reporter, Islamic fundamentalist factions that have targeted America have done so because of Israel. "The Lebanese Hizbullah group, which hit the US hard in

the 1980s, is upset with Israel's American-supported attacks on southern Lebanon, which left scores of women and children dead. The Palestinian group Hamas is furious over America's detention of one of its leaders, Musa Abu Marzook faces extradition to Israel."

Neither Shaw nor co-anchor Judy Woodruff uttered a word of challenge to this nonsense. They did not distance themselves or their network from a report that scapegoated tiny, democratic Israel for the myriad forces that spawn assaults on America.

No one winced at MacLeod's failure even to mention Middle East despots that despise American democracy, freedom,

individualism and tolerance. Incredibly, the program omitted any reference to Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan and Syria. The state of Israel alone was identified as the "cause" of terrorism.

Let it be clear, first of all, that MacLeod's assertions about the creation of Israel are boilerplate propaganda. The Jewish restoration of Israel nearly fifty years ago was not a process of dispossession of native Arabs, regardless of the relentless claims to this effect that are written, broadcast, and taught in the Arab world and elsewhere.

Zionist development renewed a desolate and sparsely populated region, attracting 100,000 Arabs into Mandate Palestine between the World Wars. Indeed, the cen-

ters of Jewish concentration in Palestine were precisely those that drew the largest number of Arabs, while Arab towns grew little or declined. Zionism was an economic boon to most Arabs.

That the Arab world, spurred on by leaders such as Haj Amin el-Husseini, opposed the reconstitution of a Jewish nation, and rejected numerous proposals for territorial compromise, is part of the historical record.

That the Arabs hurled themselves ineffectually into repeated wars against Israel in an effort to obliterate the new state is also a fact.

But if the failure thus far to eradicate Israel is an affront to Arab dignity, it is not the role of CNN to falsify history, to blame Israel for

the aggression perpetrated against her, or to rationalize murderous attacks on America as an expression of wounded Arab feelings.

Nor is it ethical to impute fault to Israel because Hizbullah terrorists on Israel's northern border hate all non-Islamic entities and vent their hatred against the nearest target, the Western-oriented Jewish state.

It is plain malice for MacLeod to parrot Hizbullah charges against Israel and to be silent about the decades during which Israeli communities have endured unprovoked shelling from Lebanon. Jewish children have been forced to flee regularly to bomb shelters and so pervasive is the threat that special ordinances require Israeli homes in the north to be constructed with walls capable of withstanding 115 mm shells.

The stupidities and omissions of

the "CNN special" are dangerous not only because they incite viewers against Israel. They are a peril because they distort and conceal vital information and obscure the sources of threat to America.

The message that Israel is the root cause of terrorism suggests that action by that nation would dampen the rage at America. Yet, no ceding of territory or other concessions to Palestinian Arabs would appease the Iranian mullahs, the Iraqi tyrant, or the Islamic Jihad terrorists. Their grievance is ultimately with the freedoms that the West reverses and Israel embodies.

Reporting of MacLeod's sort, blaming terrorism's victims and giving credence to the rationalizations of the perpetrators, all too often renders our media no more than purveyors of a blurred reality in the face of very real evil.

Look who's calling whom a 'mamzer'

A truth that's told with bad intent

Beats all the Lies you can invent.

William Blake. "Auguries of Innocence"

THE TALMUD seems to be the source of the usage whereby a Jew's traveling to Eretz Yisrael, and from anywhere else in the land to Jerusalem, is spoken of as *aliyah* or *ascension*, and those doing so are "*olim/olot* or *ascenders*."

One "goes up" to Eretz Yisrael, the Talmud tells us, because it is above all other lands. We derive this from Jeremiah 23:7-8, "And so the time is coming, says God, when people will no longer declare, 'By the God Who took the Children of Israel up from the land of Egypt,' but [will say], 'By the God Who took the seed of the House of Israel up from the north country and from all the lands to which I banished them, and they shall dwell on their own soil.'"

And one goes up to Jerusalem - i.e. to the Temple for the pilgrimage festival "ascend," the "*aliyah la regel*" - because the Temple is above the rest of Eretz Yisrael. We derive this, the Talmud says, from Deuteronomy 17:8-9, "If there should arise a matter too difficult for you to judge... you shall go up to the place that God, your God, will have chosen [i.e. the Temple in Jerusalem], ...to the levitical priests and to the incumbent judge to ask..." (*Kiddushin* 69a).

The Talmud discusses this following the statement in *Mishna Kiddushin* 41 about the "ten genealogical lines [that] ascended from Babylonia to Eretz Yisrael."

This refers to the Return to Zion near the end of the sixth century BCE under the leadership of Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemiah, after "God's anointed" king of Persia, Cyrus, who had just conquered the Babylonian empire, issued his proclamation calling on the Jews to return and rebuild the Temple. (See *Ezra* 1:1-4 and *II Chronicles* 36:22-23.)

There follows a discussion concerning the lines into which a fully fledged Jew may or may not marry. This discussion is summed up to the Shulhan Aruch, the canon of Jewish law as codified by Rabbi Yosef Karo, the 16th-century Sephardi scholar and mystic of Toledo and Safed, and modified for Ashkenazim by his younger contemporary, Rabbi Moshe Isserles of Krakow.

In the "Even Ha'ezer" section of the Shulhan Aruch, in Hilchot Pirya Verivya (Laws Concerning Reproduction) II:2, based on the relevant discussions in Talmud *Kiddushin* 69a-71b and *Derech Eretz Rabba* I, we read: "All [Jewish] families are presumed

A VIEW FROM NOV MOSHE KOHN

kasher, and it is permissible to form marriage alliances with [any of] them.

"But if you see two families [here Rabbi Isserles adds: or two individuals] always quarreling with each other, or if you see a family that is always involved in disputes, or an individual who is always quarreling with people and is extremely impertinent - the likes of these are suspect, and you should keep your distance from them, for such behavior and characteristics are indications that [they are not *kasher*]."

"And whoever is constantly disqualifying others, such as by impugning families or individuals and saying they are *mamzerim*, thereby places himself under suspicion of being a *mamzer*... [F]or those who disqualify others are [themselves unfit and are] only projecting their own deficiencies onto those they disqualify. (Note this talmudic insight that preceded Freud by some two millennia - M.K.)"

"And those who are impertinent, cruel, and misanthropic, not treating people kindly and compassionately, thereby place themselves under suspicion of being Gibeonites."

AS FOR families whose halachic pedigree may be originally blemished, but who nevertheless somehow "disappeared" into the Jewish people, Rabbi Yitzhak declares: "God extended a special grace to the Jews in that once a family has assimilated into the Jewish people, it remains part of the Jewish people."

Please note: The Jewish-legal category of *mamzer* is not the same as "bastard" of the Anglo-American and some other legal systems. A *mamzer*, who may marry only another *mamzer* or a proselyte but not a *kasher* Jew, is a child born of an incestuous relationship, of a relationship between a married woman and a man other than her husband, and of certain other relationships forbidden by Halacha.

A "*bastard*" is a child "born out of lawful wedlock." Though a North Dakota court once ruled that the term applies also to a child born after marriage "but under circumstances which render it impossible that the husband of his mother can be his father" (*Black's Law Dictionary*, 1979 edition).

As for the Gibeonites: They were one of the "Seven Canaanite Nations" whom Joshua was supposed to dispossess, but who converted to Judaism under false pretenses. They became a symbol of

cruelty after demanding of King David that seven of King Saul's descendants be handed to them for execution, in revenge for Saul's killing seven of them in breach of the pact Joshua had made with them. (I discussed the Gibeonites and the revenge episode in detail in my July 12 column.)

IN CONNECTION with pedigree and marriageability, the Talmud tells us the story of the visit the talmudic Sage Ulla, who had "ascended" from Babylonia to Eretz Yisrael, paid to Rabbi Yehuda, his former teacher in Pumbedita, the great center of learning in Babylonia.

Noticing that Rabbi Yitzhak, Rabbi Yehuda's son, was still single though well into adulthood, he asked Rabbi Yehuda about that. Rabbi Yehuda said: "Do I know where I can find him a wife fit for him [in terms of pedigree]?"

Ulla retorted: "Do we know where we stem from?"

Rabbi Yehuda: "In that case, bow can we tell which family is *kasher*?"

Ulla: "Apply the Eretz Yisrael criterion of silence. When you see two families quarreling, see which is the first not to answer back."

"Rabbi Yehuda subsequently taught in Rav's name: If you see two people quarreling, know that [at least] one of them is tainted."

Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi applies the same principle to two quarreling families.

ALL THAT being so, where shall we class all the varieties of hunters of the genealogically disadvantaged?

Where shall we class, for example, those who, with obviously malicious intent, decided that the world had to know that Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein's father, Gheorghiu Edelstein, is a Russian Orthodox priest?

Edelstein senior is the son of a Jewish father and non-Jewish mother. His wife, Yuli's mother, is Jewish.

Yuli, 37, was an aliya activist in the former Soviet Union from 1978 and a *refusenik* from 1979.

In 1984 he was sentenced to three years in a labor camp on a trumped-up narcotics charge. He was finally permitted to "ascend" to Israel in 1987.

Together with Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky and others he founded the Soviet Jewry Zionist Forum and the Yisrael B'aliya party, which has seven members in the present Knesset and two cabinet ministers.

Incidentally, Yuli is an observant Jew. He, his wife, Tania, an engineer, and their two children live in Alon Shvut. (See *Yediot Achronot*, August 2.)

BRULIK by DOSH



Serve God, not yourself

"For these nations, which you shall dispossess, listen to astrologers and diviners. But as for you, the Lord your God has not permitted you to do so." (Deut. 18:14)

SHABBAT SHALOM
SHLOMO RISKIN

The Jerusalem Post is one of the few Israeli papers which hasn't succumbed to publishing a horoscope page. The future is a major enterprise, and all kinds of ways are employed to penetrate the unknown - coffee grounds, tea leaves, tarot cards.

This week's portion of *Shofetim*, with no less than six different commandments covering a broad range of idolatrous and magical practices, does not look upon such practices as amusing; on the contrary, attempting to "divine" the future is a clear violation of the Torah.

One thing should be understood, however: our Torah portion is not necessarily claiming that knowledge derived from astrology is misleading or deceptive. For our present intent and purpose, the veracity of the prediction is irrelevant. Even if we were to believe that there is some accuracy in astrological predictions, the Torah strictly forbids us from utilizing that form of "futurology."

The basic reason for the prohibition, and even a positive commandment in its own right, is the verse: "You shall be wholehearted [tamim] with the Lord your God." (Deut. 10:10)

Why does the concept of wholeheartedness appear after a long list of forbidden divinatory practices?

Nahmanides lists "wholeheartedness" as the eighth positive commandment. This he defines as "placing into our hearts only the truth, that we should not believe in heavenly signs at all,

such as astrology."

The implication is not necessarily that astrology is false, but that God is above science and nature - and our faith must reside in Him.

The Talmud accords a dialogue between Abraham and the Almighty in which the first Jew complains that he has gazed into the stars and learned that he is not destined to have a son. God answers that Abraham must remove himself from the domain of astrology; the nation of Israel is not ruled by the stars, but only by God.

Wholeheartedness is illuminated. Even though there may be a genuine value to astrological calculations, a Jew must realize that his relationship toward his future is to be found only through God and His Torah. All other systems that aspire to define a person's destiny must be shunned by a Jew who walks "wholeheartedly" with God.

Human events are always open to development depending upon the actions of the individual and the will of the Almighty. Every other discipline which purports to determine or foretell is a distraction at best and a prohibition at worst.

Maimonides takes this idea of wholeheartedness one step further. It is forbidden to foretell the future (*lenahesh*), Maimonides begins, insisting that soothsaying and astrology and the like are all illusions devoid of the truth. He prescribes the individual from allowing a happenstance event, such as a black cat crossing his path, to determine whether he will or will not sign a contract or embark on a journey. And then, in a startling statement, Maimonides concludes his list of prohibitions in this context

with the following: "[A person may not say] if such and such will happen, I will do this, and if not, I won't, like Eliezer, the servant of Abraham." Abraham's servant, Eliezer, had been sent by his master to find a wife for Isaac. Eliezer stands at the crossroads near a well and prays: "Lord God of my master Abraham, cause please an important occurrence to befall me today. The young woman... who will say, 'drink and also give water to your camels...' You shall have proven her [worthy] of your servant Isaac [Gen. 24: 12-14]."

The commentators find Maimonides' exception to Eliezer's action was not only not forbidden, but was "admirable": "I believe that Maimonides is communicating a most profound, albeit difficult, axiom of Judaism in his condemnation of Eliezer, and is at the same time extending the concept of what it means to be wholehearted with God.

It is not only important that we not subject ourselves and the vision of our future to any system other than God and Torah; it is equally important that we not subject God to our individual needs and to the determination of our future desires.

To be wholehearted with God means to serve Him wholly and completely. We must engage ourselves in His service; we dare not engage Him on our service. The difficulty with Eliezer was not in the criterion he established for a suitable wife for Isaac; it was rather in that he was utilizing God for his ends, he wanted God to act in accordance with his plan.

The highest prayer is gratitude for whatever we have received at the hand of the Almighty, unconditional acceptance of the will of the Almighty, and the request for the strength and ability to further the plan of the Almighty.

Shabbat Shalom

The Miriam Adahan Handbooks

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BRIDGE MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

card, limited options in bidding, leads and carding. There will be no "alerts" and no announcements during the game. BRIDGE has many assets. It's fun to play. It's a great competitive sport. Everyone has a chance to play against the top players and sometimes defeat them. The mental exercise is good for your health. It's a game of skill, but the element of luck means everyone can win occasionally. The computer revolution provides a new and exciting platform for new forms of play. And, perhaps most important, the game of bridge brings people together - it's highly social. Why then isn't it a growing sport? The Task Force claims that the game's major liabilities are the complexity of the game and the poor public perception of the bridge players. Some would disagree. Indeed, a successful promoter of women's tennis once claimed that bridge has a far higher potential for growth than tennis. "Women's tennis is nothing to write home about, but it was smartly promoted with commercial sponsorship and prize money. "We told the public that women's tennis was exciting and they bought it. The same can be done for bridge." This is correct. The complexities of bridge do not have to be learned overnight. You do not have to be an expert in squeeze play to enjoy the game. The rules are basically simple and if, say, a TV viewer who did not yet understand the game was told that if a finesse won, a player would receive \$100,000 (and if he

lost his opponent would take the money), he would stay tuned to see if the finesse won - and quickly want to learn how he could take such a finesse! Many of the early lessons learned at the bridge table are later broken when a player becomes more knowledgeable. This was demonstrated on today's deal from last week's Spingold Knock-Out Teams in Miami. The opening bid of two diamonds by South was a distorted form of the weak two-bid, showing at least five diamonds and 4-10 points. North's two-notrump response was forcing, asking for clarification, and South's three-spade bid showed a feature in spades and a maximum strength for the weak two. The East-West players were two former world champions; West was Billy Eisenberg, of Boca Raton, Florida, and East was P.O. Sundelin, of Sweden. Eisenberg doubled three spades but then found himself on lead against five diamonds. He led the king of hearts. The maxim, "aces were meant to take kings," means that your ace should take the opponent's king. This case was different. To defeat the contract, Sundelin made the spectacular-looking play of the ace of hearts on his partner's king. He then returned a heart for West to ruff, and the ace of spades was the setting trick. Sundelin's play was well-reasoned: If the heart king was a doubleton, the contract could not be defeated, because declarer would hold only one heart. The only hope for the defense was if South held a doubleton heart and West the singleton. If Sundelin had not overtaken with the ace, declarer would have discarded a heart on one of dummy's high clubs.

GARDENING INEZ KLIMIST

WHAT a hot summer! The life of summer blooming annuals and perennials has certainly been shortened by the fierce sun, leaving empty spaces in our gardens. Keep watering deeply. Keep deadheading all your flowers, and keep tilling the topsoil lightly with a hand hoe to keep weeds from taking hold. A spray of water on the leaves to get some of the dust off is a good idea, since we never have a refreshing rain. Wet the leaves only in the early morning hours. In the evening, wet leaves encourage growth of fungus, and in the heat of the day the sun may burn wet leaves. Keep your garden clean and healthy looking. Pick up dead leaves and debris. Keep a sharp lookout for aphids and other pests. Get rid of them right away, don't let them take over and do a lot of damage. When you cut roses for the house, or deadhead, be sure to make a sharp cut a centimeter above a spray of five leaves. This is the joint which will produce new growth and new flowers. If your cut is above a three leaf spray, it will take much longer to get more roses. Both your roses and your other plants will appreciate a dose of liquid fertilizer about now. It will give them a bit of extra strength - like a few extra vitamins for someone who has been stressed by an infection. By the way, I heard a new suggestion while I was in England (land of the expert amateur gardener). Cut up all your banana peels into half centimeter bits, and instead of putting them into the



It's best to do summer planting in the evening to give the plants a few hours of cooler temperatures to recover. Nurseries are full of bright annuals to fill out empty spots. If you do decide to plant now you will need to take a few extra precautions. Do your planting in the evening to give the plants a few hours of cooler temperatures to recover. Wet the soil thoroughly before you begin. Dig the hole before you remove the plant from its pot. Plant quickly. Do not leave the roots exposed to the heat any longer than it takes to transfer the plant from the pot to the ground. Give a feeding of liquid fertilizer to minimize transplant shock. Water thoroughly, and be sure to water every day at least until the plant begins to grow in its new home. If you have planted in a sunny spot, protect your new plant from the sun with an inverted empty pot or a newspaper tent for at least two or three days. To prevent fungus, remove the covering in the evening or early morning for an hour or two so fresh air can circulate.

Broom plants sweep the desert

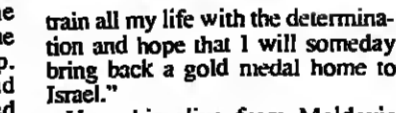
OF the many plants mentioned in the Bible and discussed widely by the Sages in sacred literature is the White Broom, *Raetama raetam* in Latin, *raetam* in Hebrew. Indeed the Latin name is derived from the Hebrew and is also preserved in Arabic as *ratham*. According to the Scriptures when Hagar and her son Ishmael were sent out to wander in the desert Hagar laid her son under a bush. The Sages tell us that it was a White Broom bush since it is one of the very few bushes that grow in that area and are large enough to provide shade. They say that it was in memory of this, that Ishmael later called the place where he resided Ritama. The rotem, or broom plant, is not a very remarkable plant. In fact, most of the time it is totally inconspicuous. But once a year when it blooms it bursts into strands of silvery blossoms and beauty is remarkably found in such a barren place. But there is more than annual beauty to recommend the White Broom bush. It is one of the desert's most effective ways of anchoring sand and preventing erosion. It also provides shade, thus creating a micro-climate that allows other plants and lichens that would die under the blazing sun to survive. It even harbors snails that chew and gnaw at the lichens on the rocks and also swallow some minute particles of rock, later excreting this material, mixed with their own metabolic wastes as new, fertile

soil to replace what is blown away. The thing for which the broom bush is most famous is the fact that it produces a clean, almost smokeless cooking fire with embers that remain hot for hours and even days and can be easily rekindled to start a new fire. For centuries it was a fuel of choice for the nomads and a favorite for the charcoal-sellers who made charcoal from its roots, while those who wanted to keep food hot on the Sabbath found it invaluable. It was only three decades ago that the production of charcoal from the rotem was halted by law since the plant was getting scarce. In ancient times people were limited by distance and by the hard work of digging out the roots and they did not over crop. Now, with modern transport and tools the balance was overturned and it was necessary to halt the depredation. The nearest trick I know using this amazing plant was taught to me by the late archeologist Pesach Bar Adon who had spent much of his life, in fact all of his youth, wandering in the desert with a tribe of Bedouins. To enjoy a toasty warm bed on a very cold desert night just gather a pile of dry twigs of white broom and pile them about 20 centimeters deep in the form of a mattress. Set the twigs alight and when they are reduced to embers pile another 15 or so centimeters of sand on them. Spread your sleeping bag or blankets and enjoy a warm comfortable sleep, even if the temperature drops below freezing.

Hungry for gold

CHES NICK KOPALOFF THERE was no red carpet laid out to greet Alexander Rabinowitz upon his arrival back to Netanya after he sensationally took the bronze medal at last month's European Chess Championships in Slovakia. But the 18-year-old is quietly confident that when he wins gold the reception will be quite different. "I will continue to play and to

train all my life with the determination and hope that I will someday bring back a gold medal home to Israel." Upon his aliya from Moldova six years ago, Rabinowitz's potential was immediately realized when at the tender age of 12 1/2 he took third place in the national under 16 championships. He went on to represent the country in both the European and World under 16s in Hungary. Notwithstanding his tremendous ability, representing Israel in these events was no foregone conclusion. He had to overcome some very stiff competition from the likes of Daniel Rotman, Igor Sorokin and Yaron Hadas, each superb players in their own right. A graduate now turned trainer of the Netanya Chess School, Rabinowitz is personally coached by Leonid Shmutter. For the past six years he has played for the Elitzur Netanya club in both the National and Artzi Leagues, notching up some enviable wins against players of Grandmaster level. Unlike some other young chess giants, such as Gata Kamsky, of whom it is said he has no friends and no interests other than chess, Rabinowitz has struck a healthy balance between his chess and other activities. "I love soccer, basketball and discoteques, but most of all my girlfriend Anna," he admits bashfully.



Alexander Rabinowitz

VERGUN, Dmitri (Estonia); Rabinowitz, Alexander (Israel) European Youth Championships Slovakia 1996 French Defence L.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nf7 5.f4 e5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Nd1f3 exd4 8.cxd4 Qb6 9.Ne2, the post-mortem analysis showed that White would have fared better with either 9.h4 or 9.g3. 9...f6 10.Nc3 fxe5 11.fxe5 Be7 12.a3 0-0 13.Na4 Qc7 14.Bd3? the more natural 14.Be2 would still give Black better chances after 14...a6 and 15...b5

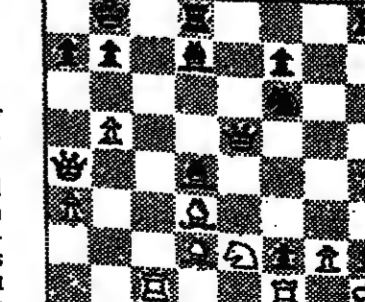


DIAGRAM 1 14...Rx3! 15.gxf3 If 15.Qxf3 Nxd4 16.Bxh7 Kxh7 17.Qh5+ Kg8 18.0-0 Nf5! 15...Nxd4 16.f4 Nxe5! a second sacrifice! 17.0-0, the capture of the Knight is taboo since after 17.fxe5 Rabinowitz secures a winning advantage with Qxe5+ 18.Kf1 Bd7 19.Nc3 Rf8+ 20.Kg2 Nf3! 17...Nx3 18.Qxd3 Bf6 19.Bd2 Bd7 20.Nc3 Be5 21.f5 Nxf5 22.Nxd5 Qc5+ 23.Be3 Nxe3 24.Nxe3 Bb5 25.Qe4 Bxf1 26.Qxe6+ Kf8 27.Rf1 Re8 0-1 There may be a number of winning lines in the following position taken from last year's league game between Ran Shabtai and Alexander Rabinowitz. But Rabinowitz probably found the prettiest. Black to play and win.



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 A party in defeat! (6) 4 Dismayed when a quiet friend took charge (8) 10 Hairstyle for Anglo-Aussie with a proud disposition (9) 11 Some wish to hear guest speakers debate (5) 12 See a dew form on the shore, maybe (7) 13 Hardly the hotel for a top performer (3-4) 14 Discharge a man in weird clothing (5) 15 Wanted to be given an escort (8) 18 Appeared to have increased the volume (6,2) 20 Number one motor for a minister (5) 23 Bishop ordered attire for a priest (7) 25 Ask for more money to improve the print (7) 26 Impatient to win each German contract (5) 27 Solitude to a lion is unnatural (9) 28 We left Titus with a rodent and a bird (8) 29 Listed by spare journalist (6) DOWN 1 Ribbons go under a piece of weaving (8) 2 Storm created by a member in fury (7) 3 American diplomat (9) 5 Such a call produces response pronto (6-2-6) 6 A good primate exhibits astonishment (5) 7 Envy takes note that he's the beneficiary (7) 8 Cheerless auditor in sober surroundings (6) 9 Plant found in the Upper House (5,3,6) 16 On All Saints' Day I entered art gallery for training (9) 17 Otherwise Daphne could be left parentless (8) 19 Just the slogan for the Redwood camp? (7) 21 Prudence gets a formal reprimand (7) 22 Aim the thing! (6) 24 Trunk taken from actors on location (5)

SOLUTIONS grid with words filled in.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 E Sussex town (5) 4 Charles Hodgson (7) 8 Impartial (7) 9 Comic operatic actor (5) 10 Inebriated (5) 11 Tonal inflection (7) 13 Wooden shoe (4) 15 Platitude (6) 17 Purpose (6) 20 Florentine river (4) 22 Nazi police (7) 24 Japanese dish (5) 26 Hindu teacher (5) 27 White ant (7) 28 Turkish (7) 29 Great strength (5) DOWN 1 Madman (7) 2 Squeezed tightly (5) 3 Makes taut (7) 4 Unbleached cotton (6) 5 Panatical (5) 6 Misdemeanour (7) 7 Unfasten (5) 12 Opposed to (sl.) (4) 14 Spring (4) 16 Immediate (7) 18 Quack remedy (7) 19 Neptune's spear (7) 21 Putrid (6) 22 Plaster of Paris (5) 23 Maxium (5) 25 Move to and fro (5)

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96 The Jerusalem Post
hting heat

האזנה מאלה

The Venice of the West Coast is pretty hip

Jewish life in the city of great coffee

GLORIA DEUTSCH

SEATTLE — the city of great coffee and over-friendly natives who will tell you their life story as they wrap up your purchase — sits on a narrow strip of land with Puget Sound on its left flank and Lake Union cranking across its middle.

There's water, water everywhere and the city has devised a complex system of locks, bridges, canals and ferries to connect its various parts. No wonder it's sometimes called the Venice of the West Coast. It's also known as the Misty City, thanks to its frequent rain, which is said to come pouring down about 300 days of each year.

Seattleites are easy-going people who enjoy a relaxed lifestyle and it's no surprise to discover that the happy-face logo was born here.

Not too much happened in Seattle until 1962, when it hosted the Century 21 Exposition, the last US World's Fair to turn a profit. The main inheritance of that event is the Seattle Center — 74 acres of shops, theaters and sports arenas — and the most familiar landmark, the Space Needle, which towers 200 meters over the city.

A monorail from the downtown terminal whisks visitors up to the center in 95 seconds. Getting on and off at the leisurely unhurried Seattle pace adds another five minutes at either end of the journey.

Seattle's pre-1962 history is comic and its fathers produced some way-out present-day attractions.

The first pioneer families made it to Seattle only in the mid-19th century. They settled at Alki Point, got blown away a few times and moved around the point to the protected waters of Elliott Bay. The name Seattle was purchased from a friendly Indian chieftain, for \$16,000.

With a natural harbor to the west and miles of virgin woodland to the east, the area was ideal for its first industry, the sawmill. Logs for export were rolled down Skid Road, giving Seattle the distinction of having the first "skid row" in the US.

Today Pioneer Square (which is really a triangle) is the starting point for the Underground Tour, a hilarious journey around the remains of the city's oldest neighborhood, which was destroyed by a fire in 1889 supposedly when someone left a glue-pot in a paint shop on the fire and it boiled over.

Below the chic boutiques, galleries, antique shops and cafes of Seattle's picturesque square lies old Seattle, a frontier town with fascinating vestiges of the early shops and homes. After the fire leveled the city, business carried on as usual in the remains, while the city was being rebuilt.

The only way to cross the street was by using a ladder to climb over the wall. This went on for 15 years, until the new city was built and shopkeepers closed their doors down below for the last time.

Today visitors climb over piles of rubble and dodgy rats to view Seattle's foundations.

The garment shop of one merchant, Moses Korn, is quite well-preserved with a lovely flowery wall frieze still visible. Korn also had his own personal toilet, which was mounted on a small staircase so that the newly invented flushing toilet would flush down and not up, which it did when on the ground.

On Pioneer Square itself one can sit and drink Starbucks coffee, enjoy the totem pole carved by Tingit Indians and see the distinctive Smith Tower which, when it was built in 1914, was the fourth highest building in the US. The area's beauty is diminished by a hideous multi-story parking lot known as the "sinking ship" because of its shape.

As one of the most important seaports in the US — and the one closest to the Orient — the waterfront buzzes with every conceivable aquatic activity. Seattle is famous for its fish and at Pike Place Market the gargantuan salmon are a tourist attraction in their own right. Salesmen there double as comedians, sending fish flying through the air to be weighed and packed, and cries of "smoked salmon" ring the air in much the same way as "timber!" in a forest.

The piles of fresh fruit and vegetables at Pike Place, which claims to be America's oldest functioning market, are wondrous to behold.



The city's most familiar landmark, the Space Needle, towers 200 meters over Seattle's skyline with Mt. Rainier in the background.

There are also craft shops, ethnic food outlets and "antique" stands, though the Seattle translation of antique is anything second-hand.

A steep climb down the terraced walkway to Pier 59, the highlight of Seattle's waterfront development. An aquarium with more than 360 species of birds, fish and marine animals is situated here. The aquarium boasts an underwater dome, a salmon ladder, fish hatchery and the Omnidome, which shows nature films on a huge 180° screen.

The Seattle Art Museum — famous for its exhibits of Asian and African art and modern art of the Pacific Northwest — is worth a visit. So is the Museum of Flight, which traces the history of aviation with 20 full-sized airplanes hanging from the ceiling of an impressive glass-and-steel gallery. It's situated in Boeing Field, south of the city.

Seattle is surrounded by lush greenery and gorgeous scenery, from the Olympic Mountains in the west to Mount Rainier in the east. On clear days the lovely snow-capped peak of Rainier is visible.

The hour-long drive to the Olympic Mountains takes you through spectacular scenery, but if you don't have the time, you can view the mountains through giant periscopes at the waterfront.

The *Spirit of Puget Sound* from Pier 70 is one of many cruise ships which cross over to the surrounding countryside. There are also frequent ferries to the various exotic islands around. The *Victoria Clipper* offers luxury cruises to the famed Canadian island, which can be reached and visited in a day.

There are many other synagogues in Seattle, ranging from Lubavitch to Reform.

There is even a gay and lesbian congregation at the Southland Jewish Center which lists itself as Orthodox in the *Jewish Travel Guide*.

The best-kept secret underground

SEE IT HERE
HAIM SHAPIRO

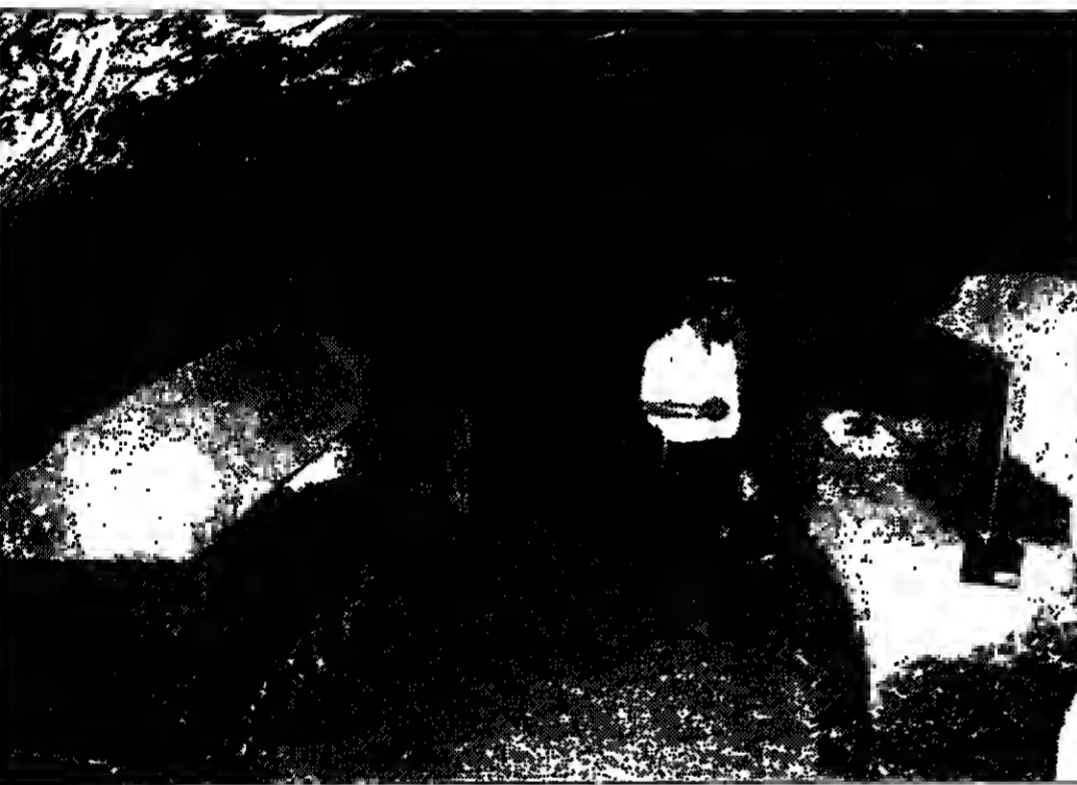
LAST year, there were about 800,000 visitors to Masada and 54,102 to Beit She'arim. If people acted rationally, it would be the other way around.

Masada is hard to get to and involves a long drive. Even if you use the cable car, a tour of the site is hot and tiring. Beit She'arim is just outside Haifa and a short drive from Tel Aviv. The site is shaded and the caves have natural air-conditioning.

Masada is associated with King Herod — by all accounts out a very pleasant person — and with a group of Jewish extremists who chose isolation and suicide, rather than Jewish continuity. Beit She'arim was the seat of the Sanhedrin and is associated with Rabbi Yehuda Hanassi, the redactor of the Mishna and one of the great figures in Jewish history.

It is true that the finds at Masada are impressive, but to my mind no more fascinating than the vast necropolis of Beit She'arim, with its complex of burial caves and massive stone sarcophagi, many of them decorated. This was the burial area that served not only the aristocracy of the Jews of Israel, but also of the Diaspora, after Jerusalem was closed to them in the third and fourth centuries CE.

The burial caves are not a new discovery. Most have been uncovered since the 1930s, when they were excavated by Beniamin Mazar, while the others were brought to light by Nachman Avigad in the 1950s. What is new is that more of the caves are open to the public. They have become more visitor-friendly, with lighting to highlight many of the details on the sarcophagi and on the walls of the limestone chambers. Even the great stone doors, carved out of the rock to resemble wood and iron doors with massive "nailheads" and "knockers," have been cleaned and are more clearly visible.



Beit She'arim, with its complex of burial caves and massive stone sarcophagi, was the burial area that served not only the aristocracy of the Jews of Israel, but also of the Diaspora.

ple and unadorned, but others have a wealth of detail, with wreaths and knobs. Some have a hull's head, a clearly Roman symbol, and one even has a well-fashioned Roman eagle. In one area, a large menora has been incised in the stone wall of the cave.

There are inscriptions — some scratched into the stone and some in deep red letters that look as if they might have been written the other day with a felt-tip pen. However, they refer to those buried centuries ago. According to the inscriptions, many of the bodies were brought long distances, from Jewish communities throughout the ancient world.

One cave is known as the cave of the curses, because of the imprecations against the grave robbers, who are promised a tortured death. The curses did not protect these remains or those in the other tombs, all of which were

emptied by grave robbers centuries ago. We can be fairly sure that the grave robbers died, but there is no way of knowing if they suffered a bad end.

Among the more impressive caves is that said to have held the remains of Rabbi Yehuda Hanassi. There is no inscription to assure us that this is indeed his grave, but inscriptions inside the cave do refer to burial sites of Gamliel and Simon, his sons. This is also the only burial cave with a large, spacious entry chamber, appropriate for a very important figure. This is in contrast to the other caves where as many sarcophagi as possible seem to have been shoved in.

We also know that Yehuda Hanassi wished to be buried with his wife and in the earth, not in a stone sarcophagus. At the end of the cave, there is indeed a large, well-formed double grave in the

Succot travel packages — with or without a Succa

TRAVEL TIPS
HAIM SHAPIRO

GOING abroad during Succot doesn't mean that you can't observe the holiday. Ofakim Tours says it is ready to send a portable Succa and a set of the four species with any of the groups going abroad during the holiday period. The package deals primarily in package tours to Western Europe, New York and Florida.

A 15-DAY Succot tour of Morocco, including a four-day desert tour, is being offered by Saviv Haolam. The price of \$1,700 includes flights, hotels with half-board, and a day's tour of Malta.

A SUCCOT week in Crete, with flights and accommodation with breakfast is available from Flydog Carpet from \$509.

AN 11-DAY Succot tour of Thailand is being offered by Nofesh Plus for \$1,197, including air fare.

AMIEL TOURS, which represents Robinson Klub in Israel, is offering a variety of Succot packages at the chain's Turkish locations. Prices for the week range from \$815 to \$1,100.

A SUCCOT package including El Al's special direct flight to Orlando is offered by Baron Tours, with five nights in an Orlando hotel, a week's car rental in Florida, a return flight from Miami to New York and four nights in New York. The price is \$1,299 for adults, \$899 for children, based on a group of two adults and two children.

LUFTHANSA IS offering flights to 20 destinations in Europe via Munich for \$599 during the entire holiday period, from September 1 to October 4. Among the destinations are London, Amsterdam, Oslo, and Barcelona.

FOR A post-holiday tour of Turkey which includes many sites not ordinarily seen by tourists, The Jerusalem Post Travel Club and Geographical Tours-Neot Hakikar is offering a 15-day trip with an English-speaking guide. The price of \$1,395 includes all travel and accommodation, usually with half-board.

ANOTHER JERUSALEM Post Travel Club excursion is its 10-

day London Theatre Tour. The \$1,685 price includes tickets to four top shows, as well as sight-seeing excursions and a two-day visit to Bath.

A TOUR to what is described as the last undiscovered land in the world, Papua-New Guinea, is being offered by Geographical Tours-Neot Hakikar, timed to coincide with a local biennial song and dance festival with the folklore of all the country's tribes. The price of the 15-day tour is \$6,990.

ARKIA is offering reduced prices to destinations in the Mediterranean for certain dates in late August and early September. Deals include a week in Crete for \$499, or in Santorini for \$399, and two-for-the-price-of-one flight tickets to Sicily for \$475 or Malaga for \$559.

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Political UFOs and other aliens in the summer haze

THE week after NASA reported evidence of life on Mars, the political domestic scene seemed to be moving into the realm of a science fiction movie. It may of course be just the August heat casting a sluggish haze over all.

The theme was set by Labor chairman MK Shimon Peres, who reminded the Knesset that the prime minister had promised to "surprise the world." It wasn't altogether clear, said Peres, whether he had sprung the surprise already. "But," he said, "many in the world are rubbing their eyes, wondering what political UFO is spinning through the air."

Apparently oblivious that it should be the summer silly season, the government continued reeling from one crisis to another like a group of vacationing aliens trying to adjust their feet to terra firma.

Foreign Minister David Levy continued to find evidence that he was being excluded from foreign affairs and threatened to resign. Justice Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman found himself under police investigation and did resign.

Isomet leader and Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan realized he had no role in plans to re-deploy the army from Hebron and also threatened to quit. Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein of Yisrael Ba'Aliya threatened to go when he heard Housing Minister Meir Porush (Aguda) had changed the criteria for housing mortgages, to the detriment of new immigrants.

A couple of weeks ago the government quitted a patchwork ministry no one had thought the country needed for the sole purpose of getting Ariel Sharon aboard Spaceship Bibi again because Levy had threatened to resign.

This week, the one ministry most people agree is redundant and should be abolished (even its own ministers) got not one, but two rotating ministers, two rotating directors-general and two vice-ministers. Peres called it the "revolving door system."

THE WEEK THAT WAS MICHAL YUDELMAN

It was little wonder politicians showed little interest in life on Mars, sniggered some MKs, when some ministers appeared cut off from life on Earth or at least in the Promised Land.

The Treasury and central bank seemed blissfully unaware of the crashing sounds coming from the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. The prime minister and finance minister niftily reversed almost every economic plan and cutback they had announced so proudly and so firmly only a few weeks ago.

Cutbacks? Belt tightening? Forget it. The state budget must be in good shape judging by the decision to appoint 24 political vice-directors-general, two for each ministry. They will be in charge of vice in their departments," commented Knesset wits.

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert maintained the silence of innocent lambs as hard-bullies continued to attack women employees of the education ministry in Jerusalem in broad daylight.

Still, they have their reasons. Hammer was canvassing in a Swiss sanatorium from the National Religious Party's elections victory. Olmert was busy drawing futuristic tunnels under maps of Bar-Ilan Street so secular drivers could scurry underneath like moles without disturbing Shabbat silence in the world above.

For some reason, this put some older MKs in mind of the time rape first became a public concern. Lateral thinking police suggested a brilliant solution women should not be allowed out after a certain hour, say nine o'clock at night.

Prime Minister Golda Meir reportedly countered: "Why not forbid men to leave home after dark? After all, it's they who commit the rapes, not the women."

Hello, hello! Anybody home? **CARD INDEX**
"Netanyahu is the Jewish Ronald Reagan," gushed new Republican vice-presidential candidate Jack Kemp at his first dinner date with US Jewish organizations on the eve of the party convention this week.

Oh, yes, smirked some Israeli politicians as they wondered how Netanyahu would receive the somewhat dubious "compliment."

Was that Reagan the second rate B-movie actor who rose to power because Americans couldn't tell the difference between acting a president and being one, and who was heavily advised by his wife, but only after she consulted her astrologer?

Reagan became famous for not being able to answer reporters' questions without reading prepared replies from little briefing cards which were always getting mixed up.

One memorable from the Israeli television program *Fiyasim* (slip-ups) showed Reagan looking blank as a journalist repeated his question three times. Each time his wife Nancy whispered the correct answer in his ear, but he didn't get it.

Finally, she mouthed it so loudly all the world could hear: "We're doing the best that we can," and Ronnie obediently repeated the words to the press and the rest of the world, in case they hadn't got it first time. Prizes offered for first sightings of Sarah Netanyahu buying a card index.

WRONG POLLARD

"I hope to bring about your husband's release through innovative, creative ideas," Netanyahu told Esther Pollard this week as she continued her hunger strike outside the Mashbir in Jerusalem.

It is not yet clear whether Mrs. Pollard's hunger strike will do anything for Jonathan's release,

but it has been having a powerful impact on the life of Anne, the first Mrs. Pollard.

"The last two weeks have been the most intolerable of my life," Anne Pollard told *The Jerusalem Post*. She paused. "Except for the time I spent in jail, of course."

Anne was unable to enter a cafe or restaurant without being accosted by people indignantly upbraiding her: "What are you doing? How come you're eating? You're supposed to be on hunger strike."

She was hassled similarly on the street, at the beach, even on going into a store for her groceries. "What's the matter with you," hissed the busybodies, while others pointed, whispered and muttered darkly.

It appears the Israeli public still identifies Anne, who has been living in Tel Aviv for five years, as Mrs. Jonathan Pollard despite the fact that the petite, vivacious blonde looks nothing like the second Mrs. P.

People who heard Esther Pollard's radio interview berated Anne for being "so viligac."

"I can't even drive in a car without being confronted by other drivers," she complained.

Even Anne's brother, who lives north of Pittsburgh, called to say he was confused after being flooded by telephone calls from people demanding "why is she doing it, why is she protesting and hunger striking?"

Anne stresses that she does not want in any way to criticize Esther. "Perhaps what she's doing is right."

But she admits she would go about campaigning differently.

"Instead of sitting outside the Mashbir, which isn't doing any good, I'd be campaigning for him in Washington.

"This is a golden opportunity, with both Bill Clinton and Bob Dole running after the Jewish vote for November's elections. Maybe they could be persuaded to promise publicly to release Jonathan publicly.

"The key is in Clinton's hand, not Netanyahu's."



Belaynish Zevadia, the first Israeli diplomat of Ethiopian background, receives the Hebrew University symbol from school president Prof. Hanoch Gutfreund.

A truce for the wedding

GRAPEVINE
GREER FAY CASHMAN

GIVEN their political polarization, discord between the Women in Green and Meretz members is virtually inevitable. But there was perfect harmony when representatives of both sides came together this week at the Hebrew University Mount Scopus Campus because no one, including Meretz leader Yossi Sarid, wanted to put a spoke in the wheel of newlyweds Daphna Saperstein and Shai Chazan.

The bride's mother, Rachel Saperstein, has frequently been out on the barricades with the Women in Green, and the groom's mother, Naomi Chazan, is a Meretz MK. There's something to be said for the maxim that love conquers all.

ALTHOUGH HIS 74th birthday is actually today, Labor leader and former prime minister Shimon Peres was feted by his party colleagues last Saturday night at a reception hosted by MK Rafi Ellul. Peres' wife Sonia, who rarely appears with him in public, was at his side. Ellul ostensibly brought the Labor people together for the purpose of clearing some of the tensions which have caused rifts in the ranks. But as the evening wore on, the true guise of the occasion became apparent. The symbolism in the Fiddler on the Roof silver statuette presented to Peres was open to various interpretations, but the esteem in which he is held in many quarters was reflected in the poem composed by Labor whip Ra'anan Cohen. The poem's refrain is "You were born to be a leader."

A FIDDLER with another string to his bow is violin virtuoso Yitzhak Perlman, who, on September 5, will temporarily trade in his violin for a frying pan as he joins some of America's leading chefs in the preparation of a fundraising banquet to benefit disabled Israelis. Perlman, who is a prime example of an achiever who overcame a disability, is the president of the Friends of The Roof Association of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities. Another Israeli joining the maestro in the New York kitchen will be food maven Israel Aharoni. Whether Aharoni could acquit himself as well on the concert platform as Perlman does in the kitchen is, of course, another story.

NOTWITHSTANDING modern tools of communication such as cellular phones and the Internet, nothing beats face to face confrontation. This would explain why Shas leader Arye Deri, who is acting as an intermediary in the Netanyahu-Levy conflict, found it necessary to go from Jerusalem to Beit She'an twice last Friday to confer with Levy.

He is lucky that it's summer. He would have been hard-pressed on a winter Friday to execute his mission with the same degree of commitment. It's not all that easy to be persuasive when your eye is constantly on your watch.

NO LESS monumental for prominent Tel Aviv lawyer and Lloyd's representative in Israel Baruch Gross than his landmark 75th birthday was the surprise party's venue - a cave in the Bet Guvrin area. Conceived and coordinated by noted environmentalist and painter Dafna Margolin, who is the significant other in Gross' life, the celebration was both intellectually and socially stimulating. Former minister and Knesset speaker Yitzhak Berman, former justice minister David Liba'i, former Shenkar College president

Lord David Samuel, Eliahu Tal, chairman of the International Forum for Jerusalem, Indian Ambassador Shivshankar Menon and his wife Mohini were among the 120 guests who were privy to a mock trial dealing with a dispute over the Cave of the Machpela between Abraham the Patriarch and Ephron the Hittite. Adjudicator was comedian Allen Kuzniski, who made a breathtaking if undignified entry by rappelling his way down from the roof of the cave.

IRONY OF ironies. When Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein arrived here as a new immigrant in July, 1987, the Absorption Ministry official who handed him his immigrant card was Ephraim Cohen, who in the interim was promoted to director-general. When Edelstein took over as minister, Cohen, as is the custom amongst directors-general, wrote a letter of resignation - which was accepted.

SUCCESS IS never an orphan. Belaynish Zevadia, the first Israeli diplomat of Ethiopian background, who left for Chicago this week to take up her position as Information Officer at the Israeli Consulate, owes part of her success to her alma mater - the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Zevadia, who has been busy these past few weeks attending a round of farewells in her honor, earned her BA in international relations and African studies from the Hebrew University and is currently working on an MA in Israeli-Ethiopian relations. Just in case her diploma is an insufficient reminder of where she received her higher education, HU President Prof. Hanoch Gutfreund gave her the university's symbol to occasionally jog her memory.

KOREAN AMBASSADOR Deng Soon Park should get a special commendation from Israel or the World Jewish Congress for making Jewish and Israeli literature available to his fellow countryman. The ambassador has translated one of the works of Reb Nachman, and the book which Noa Ben Arzi wrote about her grandfather Yitzhak Rabin into Korean. He also may translate Leah Rabin's upcoming book, which is due for release next January.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Friday, August 16, 1996

Where's the beef?

ON THE AGENDA
AMOTZ ASA-EL

FACED with war-derived inflation, most Bostonians in 1780 balked at lending money to the state of Massachusetts, until it offered to redeem those loans not according to a fixed interest, but according to the fluctuating values of leather, beef, corn and wool.

What then was innovative — namely the index-linked, inflation-of bond — is now a veteran resident in our long-term savings landscape, but in a nutshell the dilemma faced by those Bostonians and their government is what now is at stake between Tel Aviv's trading floors and Jerusalem's political corridors.

Fortunately, there is no war here now, but a steadily growing sense of economic uncertainty has resulted in accelerated bond sales, through the provident funds which have long been Israel's most popular long-term savings plans.

The origin of this mayhem has nothing to do with the recent elections, since it traces back to January 1995, when provident-fund redemptions exceeded deposits by more than NIS 600 million, after three consecutive months of surplus deposits. Indeed, during the previous government's last 17 months in office, fund withdrawals exceeded deposits by NIS 8.7 billion.

That stampede had to do not only with the newly deregulated funds' mismanagement, which resulted in unprecedented negative yields, but also with their role in financing a celebration of private consumption fueled by lavish salary raises across the public sector. Irresponsible, and

colossally undelivered peace-in-time promises also contributed their share to the evolving sense of uncertainty.

Yet, even if the origins of today's market upheaval date back to pre-Netanyahu times, the prime minister must seek an explanation for the sharp acceleration in bond sales since his assumption of office.

Apparently, average depositors can't see the new government — unlike those American revolutionaries — delivering the equivalents of those beef, leather, corn and wool. To convince the public that it would be wise to lend it money, the government must do much more than merely utter words, even conforting ones like those said yesterday by Netanyahu.

A leadership which vied for power while lacking a detailed economic contingency plan is worthy of the market's whip. A government which talks pompously about privatization, but says it is afraid to tackle politically powerful unions, is perceived as an economic coward. A prime minister whose foreign minister plays hooky while the house is on fire, deserves a financial vote of no confidence. And a government which takes the liberty to appoint 25 political activists for senior civil-service positions will find it difficult to win an investor's — let alone a taxpayer's — respect.

Fortunately, it is still early enough in the day for these phenomena to be corrected. Unfortunately, chances for such a reversal of attitude are slim.

Wait before taking a mortgage, say bankers

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

HOME buyers who are not hard pressed to take a mortgage are advised to wait a few months before making a move, mortgage bankers said yesterday, regarding expectations that the bond-market crisis will result shortly in reduced interest rates.

Uri Wurzburger, general manager of Bank Tefahot, said people who urgently need a mortgage should consider taking out a loan at a variable interest.

"A mortgage at a variable rate for 2 1/2 years seems preferable to a fixed interest, after 2 1/2 years, interest rates will change in accordance with contemporary market conditions," said Wurzburger.

The current market upheaval, highlighted by accelerated long-term savings withdrawals from

provident funds, are weighing heavily on mortgage banks since the funds serve them as a key source of long-term financing. In addition, the withdrawals have forced the funds to sell liquid assets, particularly state bonds, resulting in reduced bond prices and rising yields, which the banks roll on to home buyers in the form of higher mortgage rates.

Wurzburger said it will be disastrous for the mortgage market if interest rates continue to rise. The last few months' slowdown in apartment sales may lead to a drop in apartment prices, he said, but in that case "there is a real fear that market expectations will push down prices and lead to a housing crisis and a slowdown in construction starts," he warned, adding that such a scenario would particularly harm the banks.

Claridge-Arison retreats from Hapoalim tender

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Claridge-Arison consortium, until now the leading contender for the purchase of a controlling share in Bank Hapoalim, yesterday unexpectedly announced it is withdrawing from the tender, thus leaving the Fishman group as the sole contender in Israel's largest-scale privatization scheme to date.

The group, which is headed by Jonathan Kolber, cited changed legal circumstances since its original approach to the tender, but may examine the purchase of another Israeli bank, according to Claridge vice president Danny Biron.

MI Holdings, the government agency in charge of privatizing the banks, expressed regret at the group's decision, which came after a draft sale contract had already been reached between the parties, but before the deal's price tag was set.

According to MI Holdings general manager Meir Jacobson, the Bank of Israel is currently examining the Fishman consortium's request to participate in the tender, which involves 20 percent of the bank's

issued share capital.

The group — which comprised Claridge Israel, Arison Investments, Goldman Sachs, the Soros group and the Renaissance Fund — said its decision to end negotiations was due to micro- and macro-economic changes which occurred during the 18-month period since it originally approached the tender.

The group said in a press release that local and international experts analyzed the deal on behalf of it, including the implications of the newly revised Banking Law, which compels all banks to reduce their holdings in non-financial assets to a maximum of 25%.

"As a result of this study, combined with the changes in the Israeli economy, the group reached the above decision," the statement said. It added that consequent changes in the terms of the deal, as well as divergent opinions on the draft sale contract and the potential loss of "other oppor-

tunities in the Israeli market" while focusing on the deal's completion, "all contributed to the partners' decision not to proceed with the Bank Hapoalim transaction."

The consortium invested a total of \$4 million in hiring consultants to advise it on the transaction, according to Biron. That price, as well as the 18 months the group dedicated to looking into the deal and its negligence of alternative investments during that time, indicate that the consortium was serious about purchasing Bank Hapoalim, Israel's largest financial institution, he said.

"In light of the many changes, we realized that the sale contract was not what we had really wanted, and for this reason we decided that the best way to cut losses is to get out," he said, emphasizing that negotiations on the price between the group and the government had not even started.

As for the future, the group's components

say they are interested in making new investments in the Israeli economy, whether separately or as a group.

Claridge has serious plans to invest in other companies, including ones which stand to be sold as part of the government's privatization process, Biron said. "We will now engage in a series of internal discussions to examine alternative investments. We are willing to examine all proposals in order to make up for the last two year's deficit."

Meanwhile, the Fishman consortium has submitted its second application with the Bank of Israel to participate in the tender.

About seven months ago the central bank instructed the Fishman consortium to change the structure of the group to participate in the tender. The Bank of Israel said the consortium does not have adequate equity capital to control the bank.

The Fishman consortium consists of businessman Eliezer Fishman, US investment bank Bear Stearns and US insurance group Reliance.



Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, President Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, and Finance Minister Dan Meridor toast Frenkel's second term at the central bank. (A. Hendler)

Teva profits hurt by Biocraft purchase

COMPANY RESULTS
JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

TEVA Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. yesterday reported a drop in net income from \$18.3 million in the second quarter last year to \$600,000 for the 1996 second quarter, during which the company purchased the US's Biocraft Laboratories Inc.

Net income for the quarter, before the \$14.9m. charge of the merger expenses, was \$15.5m. Revenues for the quarter were \$219.4m., a 15.8% increase from \$189.5m. during the same period last year.

Teva's shares rose 3.3% from \$30.50 to \$31.50 in early morning trading.

The company's shares have been steadily decreasing since May, when they hit a yearly high of \$47.375.

The drop was fueled by growing fears that the US Food and Drug Administration's approval for the company's first proprietary drug, Copaxone, a multiple sclerosis treatment, would take longer than expected.

Recently, the FDA reneged on its decision to let the company bypass a stage in the review procedure of Copaxone.

Upon releasing the results, Teva CEO Eli Hurvitz responded optimistically and was enthusiastic about the company's abil-

ity to meet future challenges.

In July, Teva acquired APS/Berk, the second largest generic company in the UK, for \$52.7m.

Cial Electronic Industries, Cial Industries' electronics and high-tech arm reported a 77% plunge in second quarter net profits to NIS15.18m. from NIS66.22m. in the corresponding period last year.

The second-quarter earnings include capital gains of NIS1.6m. In the second quarter of 1995, the company registered capital gains of NIS50m.

Management said the drop in earnings was due to higher losses in its subsidiary, Mennen Medical, and a move from a profit to a loss in Scitex.

In addition, the company suffered expenses of NIS2.8m. from RDC, a start-up company that was not incorporated in the company's financial statements last year.

Net profits in the first six months of the year rose to NIS104.7m. from NIS90.6m. The earnings include net capital gains of NIS88.4m., compared

to NIS63.2m. last year. Shekem, the retail department-store chain, doubled its net losses in the second quarter to NIS16.95m., compared to losses of NIS8.61m. in the same period last year.

Operating losses increased 53% to NIS16.7m. in the second quarter from NIS11.96m. The higher losses were due to a drop in revenues and a rise in management and general expenses.

In the directors report attached to the financial statements, Gershon Zelik, the company's controlling shareholder, said Shekem is continuing with its recovery program, which includes separation of the company's activities into three divisions — food, electronics and department stores.

Geotek Communications, Inc., a wireless mobile communications company, reported an increase in net losses to \$31.3m. from \$12.4m. in the corresponding quarter last year, the company announced yesterday.

Revenues increased 10% to \$22.4m., compared with \$20.3m. in the same period one year ago.

Based in New Jersey, Geotek has operations in Israel, Canada, Germany and the UK.

New Russian finance minister: Budgets, revenues top priorities

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russia's new Finance Minister Alexander Livshits said yesterday that defending the 1997 budget and increasing budget revenues were among his top priorities.

Livshits, who was President Boris Yeltsin's top economic aide until his appointment, said the Finance and Economy ministries had prepared a draft budget for 1997.

"The main goal is to defend it and ensure it gets through parliament," he told ministry officials at a meeting attended by journalists.

Prime Minister Viktor Chomomyrdin, who presented Livshits to his ministry, has said the cabinet will discuss the 1997 budget on August 22 and submit a draft to the State Duma lower house of parliament on August 31.

Livshits, also a deputy prime minister in the new government, said the ministry would discuss macroeconomic issues in the next couple of days and he would then discuss the situation in branches of industry with his deputy ministers.

But Livshits also said the situation with the 1996 budget had to be improved. Tax collection is well below target and ministers say the economy is actively short of cash.

The budget deficit has widened, partly as a result of the high cost of financing massive issues of treasury bills in the run-up to last month's presidential election and because tax revenues are too low.

"If we do not improve the situation, then everything that the president promised before the election will be pointless," Livshits said.

He said the finance ministry would coordinate work with all the agencies involved with raising revenue.

Chemomyrdin, flanked by Livshits and new First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Potanin, said the 1997 draft budget was not entirely satisfactory but that it was realistic.

"That does not mean it must not be changed. It must undergo changes in the direction of increasing revenue," he said.

Potanin will take overall charge of the Russian economy.

The International Monetary Fund, worried at low tax revenues, withheld one tranche of a three-year loan to Russia last month.

A delegation is visiting Russia this week to assess the economic figures and decide whether to recommend the release of the tranche.

Correction

TADIRAN'S second-quarter net income more than tripled to \$53 million, from \$12m. in the corresponding period last year. The company's operating income increased 86% over the same period.

BITS & BYTES

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Alirro's encryption system selected by Murata: Japanese facsimile machine maker Murata has selected Alirro's encryption system PrivateSuite in all of its 1997 models. Alirro offers a host of encryption devices that make it difficult to decode information sent via fax or the Internet.

Cabletron announces development of Ethernet switches: Cabletron has announced the development of six new Ethernet switches that are based on SmartSwitch ASIC technology. The switches support virtual routing and are designed to speed up local area networks, the company said. US-based Cabletron is locally represented by Team Computers.

Eldor Computers provides system to Kupat Holim: Kupat Holim Clalit has decided to purchase computer equipment from Eldor computers, the local representative of the American company Dell. Eldor did not disclose the size of the deal.

Iplex acquires 50% of Winsite: Iplex (Israel), a subsidiary of Iplex (Australia), recently announced that it has acquired 50% of Winsite, which created Help Desk, a software tool that assists computer users with certain programs. Although Winsite will continue to function as an independent branch, the company's name will be changed to Winsite-Iplex.

Omnitech-Itchut releases new software: Omnitech-Itchut has announced the release of its latest software, Tikshurit. The software is designed for law offices and, according to the company, enables users to better manage their data.

Scitex to unveil latest imager: Scitex recently announced that the Dolev 800VTM, an enhanced version of the Dolev 800TM, will be unveiled in the US at the Scitex Graphic Arts User Association meeting this month. The company claims that the new machine boosts the system's speed nearly 80 percent over earlier Dolev 800 models to 831 square inches per minute at 1,270 dpi.

Studies '96 fair to feature Internet and computer technologies: The Studies '96 fair, Tel Aviv Exhibition Grounds, August 19-21, will offer a wide array of Internet and computer attractions and testing sites.

TTI-Team Telecom wins tender: TTI-Team Telecom, a subsidiary of Team Computers, won a contract to supply the New York-based company Teleport with its network management and control system. The first stage of the project is worth \$1.2 million.

'96 tourist flow down sharply

DAVID HARRIS

THE number of tourists arriving here by air in March and April was 20 percent lower than in the January-February period, according to Central Bureau of Statistics figures published yesterday. In May and June the number of tourists dropped another 7%.

In the first six months of the year, 1,207,900 visitors arrived in Israel, 1,099,600 of them tourists. In the same period, 108,300 arrived by sea, 837,500 by air, and 254,900 by land, a figure which includes Israelis returning from trips abroad.

The drop in tourism was attributed in part to the terrorist bombings in February and March and by Operation Grapes of Wrath.

In April and May, the number of nights tourists spent in hotels was down 4% to 5% from the seasonal average.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS					
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (29.7.96)					
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS		
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	4.675	5.375		
Pound sterling (£200,000)	8.875	4.000	4.125		
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.750	1.875	2.250		
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	1.000	1.125	1.500		
Yen (10 million yen)					
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)					
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (15.8.96)					
Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.5196	3.7703	—	—	3.5512
German mark	3.1243	3.1747	3.07	3.22	3.1212
Pound sterling	2.0888	2.1325	2.06	2.17	2.1212
French franc	4.8428	4.9208	4.75	4.99	4.8227
Japanese yen (100)	0.6143	0.6243	0.60	0.64	0.6207
Dutch florin	2.5922	2.6928	2.54	2.66	2.6206
Swiss franc	1.8704	1.9008	1.83	1.92	1.8904
Swedish krona	2.5789	2.6216	2.53	2.66	2.6078
Norwegian krona	0.4703	0.4779	0.46	0.49	0.4763
Denish krona	0.4960	0.4939	0.47	0.51	0.4912
Finnish mark	0.5428	0.5516	0.53	0.56	0.5485
Canadian dollar	0.8894	0.7107	0.68	0.73	0.7865
Australian dollar	2.2718	2.3085	2.23	2.35	2.2968
S. African rand	2.4383	2.4777	2.39	2.52	2.4653
Belgian franc (10)	0.6888	0.6979	0.62	0.70	0.6883
Austrian schilling (10)	1.0187	1.0352	1.00	1.05	1.0283
Italian lira (1000)	2.9822	3.0524	2.83	3.04	3.0102
Egyptian pound	2.0582	2.0825	2.02	2.13	2.0798
EU	4.3400	4.6400	4.34	4.64	4.5002
Irish punt	0.8900	0.8700	0.89	0.97	1.0227
Spanish peseta (100)	3.8617	4.9155	—	—	3.8667
Israeli shekel	5.0158	5.0987	4.92	5.17	5.0682
	2.4761	2.5161	2.43	2.56	2.5029

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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Key Representative Rates table showing US dollar, Sterling, and Mark exchange rates against NIS.

NYSE STOCK MARKET table listing various stock market indices like DJ Industrials, NYSE Composite, and NASDAQ.

New York market indexes table showing NYSE, NASDAQ, and other regional market performance.

Israeli stocks in NY table listing various Israeli companies and their stock prices.

Comstock Trading Ltd. (Date 15-AUG-96) and other market data notes.

INTEL MONEY MARKET table showing interest rates and money market activity.

Dollar crossrates (US) table showing exchange rates for various international currencies.

Libor rates table showing London Interbank Offered Rates for various terms.

Foreign financial data courtesy of Comstock Trading Ltd. section header.

INTERNATIONAL COMMODITIES AND METALS table listing prices for various commodities.

US commodities table listing prices for various US agricultural and industrial commodities.

London commodities table listing prices for various London-based commodities.

Spot market metals (US) table showing prices for various metals.

New York metal futures table showing prices for various metal futures.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Main stock market table with columns for Multi-sided trading, Two-sided trading, and Afternoon trading. Includes various stock symbols and prices.

Market up despite bond sell orders

STOCKS rose for a second day as investors concentrated on corporate earnings reports. They were little affected by the sell orders for bonds and officials' efforts to stabilize the bond market.

Eurobourses ignore conflicting US data

LONDON (Reuters) - A weaker Wall Street and conflicting US economic signals failed yesterday to unsettle European bourses, which cruised quietly to a close in trading stilled by a holiday in many centers.

Stocks end mixed in quiet session

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks ended little changed in a quiet session yesterday as traders awaited options expirations today.

BONDS

(Continued from Page 1) Monday, then on August 26 and August 29. The tenders will come into force at 9 a.m. on each day and close before bond trading begins on the stock exchange.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Currency cross-rates table showing exchange rates for various international currencies.

Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially obscured by the page fold.

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האזן מן האל

A-G backtracks, agrees to give Olmert a hearing

ATTORNEY-GENERAL Michael Ben-Yair flip-flopped yesterday on the question of whether to give Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert a hearing before indicting him, first announcing that he would not, but then backtracking.

Ben-Yair decided two months ago to indict Olmert for alleged involvement in a 1988 Likud fund-raising scam, but said at the time that he would first give the mayor a hearing. Yesterday morning, however, he went ahead and asked the Knesset to lift Olmert's parliamentary immunity, saying the mayor had decided to waive the hearing.

According to Ben-Yair's office, the hearing had been postponed repeatedly at Olmert's request, and the two sides had finally agreed that Olmert would instead submit his arguments in writing by yesterday. On Wednesday, the office said, Olmert's attorney, Yigal Armon, changed his mind and asked for an oral hearing instead. Ben-Yair agreed, but insisted that

it would still have to be held yesterday. According to Ben-Yair, Armon responded that in that case, he would waive the hearing.

When Armon heard yesterday that Ben-Yair had asked the Knesset to lift Olmert's immunity, he protested vigorously, saying his client had never waived his right to a hearing. Beo-Yair then backtracked and agreed to hold a hearing on September 1.

The course of events created the impression that there was no real desire for a hearing, but merely a desire for delay, Ben-Yair said afterwards in a letter to Armon. "But to prevent any charge of unfair treatment... I agree to hold a hearing."

The draft indictment charges Olmert with aggravated fraud and falsifying corporate documents, as well as two violations of the income tax laws and one violation of the Party Funding Law (making a false declaration to the state comptroller). All of the charges relate to the

EVELYN GORDON and BILL HUTMAN

Likud's 1988 election campaign, during which Olmert, as treasurer, was heavily involved in fund-raising. According to the draft indictment, Olmert suggested to Yona Peled - a member of a non-profit organization raising funds for the Likud - that he solicit money from businesses and give them fictitious receipts which would indicate that the money was spent on advertising. Peled accepted the idea, and in this way the Likud raised NIS 932,787, one of which was recorded on his organization's books.

The scheme violated the law in two ways. First, contributions from businesses are illegal. Second, the fictitious receipts enabled the companies to tax deductions for the donations as if they were legitimate business expenses.

Olmert also submitted a false report to State Comptroller Miriam

Ben-Porat so that she would give the Likud a clean bill of health for its campaign finances. This enabled the party to receive the remainder of its campaign funding, NIS 2.148 million, from the government.

Peled and eight others involved in the affair were indicted in the Tel Aviv District Court in 1991, but the state said at the time that it lacked sufficient evidence to indict Olmert. While Peled's testimony against Olmert during the trial changed this situation, Ben-Yair said he saw no point in indicting Olmert unless the district court convicted the others, since there would be no chance of convicting Olmert if the others were acquitted.

The district court issued its verdict only this past March. Sources close to the mayor yesterday charged Beo-Yair acted

unprofessionally and with apparent intent to discredit Olmert's name.

That Ben-Yair later reversed the decision and agreed to reschedule his hearing, raises further questions about the functioning of the attorney-general, the sources added. "It appears as if the entire affair was simply a trick by Ben-Yair to make the mayor look bad, by creating a news item again of the fact the mayor faces criminal charges," one of the sources close to Olmert said.

The sources said Beo-Yair acted with complete disrespect for the mayor, originally scheduling the hearing on the day Olmert was set to leave for the US with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and before he and his lawyer could review the material.

For Olmert, the final straw came on Wednesday, when Armon sent a letter requesting the hearing be postponed until the beginning of September, and Ben-Yair held firm

to holding the hearing the next day.

After being told about the mix-up, Ben-Yair presented Armon with an ultimatum to hold the hearing as scheduled, or have Olmert give up his right to a hearing. The sources said Armon said neither choice was acceptable. Ben-Yair, however, simply ignored the attorney, and presented Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon with the request to lift Olmert's immunity, saying Olmert was giving up his right to a hearing.

"How could the attorney-general write something like that, when Armon told him something completely different?" the source asked. Olmert himself would only say, "I am convinced of my innocence, and am certain that it will be proven. ... We are talking about something that happened eight years ago, and about a file that contains thousands of documents. Does anyone seriously believe that by requesting to delay my hearing by two weeks I was trying to drag out the process?"

WEATHER

City	Temp
Tel Aviv	25-32
Jerusalem	19-30
Beersheva	20-33
Haifa	25-32
Tiberias	25-38
Ashdod	24-33
Samarina	21-31
Beer Sheva	20-33
Eilat	27-40

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear.
Shabbat: No change in temperatures.

Levine orders probe into death of Golani recruit

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine has ordered a special team to investigate the sudden death of Golani recruit Amit Kosover who died while on a training march Wednesday night.

Pvt. Kosover, 18, was buried yesterday at Kfar Sirkin. He had only been in uniform for three weeks.

Kosover said he did not feel well following a five-kilometer forced march in his Golani unit. Shortly later he collapsed and died. News of his death reached the family as his father was serving in reserve duty.

Kosover, the eldest of five children and an avid sportsman, pushed to join the Golani Brigade, proudly joining the same battalion where his father had served as an

officer a generation before.

The IDF Spokesman said only that Kosover died after the march in the Jordan Valley and has not yet released the cause of death. The Military Police, following procedure, immediately opened an investigation into the death.

But Levine took the exceptional step of setting up a separate investigation team. The team is to include safety and medical personnel.

Before burial, Kosover reportedly underwent a post mortem which was to have examined a possible heart attack, among likely causes of death.

Kosover was known to have been a good sportsman. He was the ninth soldier to die in training accidents this year.



Hundreds of Tel Avivians line up for their first taste of 'Dunkin' Donuts' at the opening of the American chain's first shop in Israel, near Rabin Square yesterday.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High
Amsterdam	14	22
Berlin	10	17
Bombay	25	33
Chicago	21	30
Copenhagen	16	25
Hamburg	13	21
London	12	20
Los Angeles	18	26
Moscow	8	15
New York	15	23
Paris	13	21
Rome	15	23
Stockholm	12	20
Tokyo	18	26

Winning numbers & cards

In last night's Poyis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 881890, won NIS 1,000,000.

The holder of ticket number 706465 won a car.

Tickets numbered 710754, 390446, 652743, 595128, 093521, 633408, 612494 and 701825 won NIS 5,000. Those tickets ending in 75484, 61752, 98981, 09515, 72433, 23175, 66655, 50750, 62689, 15654, 34442, 23307, 42762, 30095, 50531, 84522, 66068, 21972, and 99070 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 192, 421, 881, and 333 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 35, 30, 92 and 47 won NIS 50. Tickets ending in 84 and 66 won NIS 20.

Tickets ending in 7 and 3 won NIS 10.

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were, the 7 of spades, the 9 of hearts, the queen of diamonds, and the 7 of clubs.

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Military court to issue sentence on dehydration case

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

A SPECIAL military court is to issue its sentencing today of three officers, including the former head of the army's top commando unit, convicted of causing the death by negligence of two soldiers who died of dehydration.

The high-profile case is being keenly watched by officers and parents, as it will indicate just how far the government and the IDF will hold commanders responsible for training accidents and other operational deaths.

The case involves the 1992 deaths of Yaron Bar-Dor, of Jerusalem, and Eran Ofer, 19, who died of dehydration while on a map reading exercise in the Negev.

The special military court, meeting in Tel Aviv, had been scheduled to hand down its sentence last week, but delayed it after the defense presented an unprecedented string of character witnesses, including Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, former chief of staff Ehud Barak and three major-generals. Their appearance, and particularly Mordechai's, was seen as a mes-

sage to the autonomous military court that the top brass was backing its field commanders against an increasing number of trials against senior officers.

One of the officers being sentenced is Col. Amos Ben-Avraham, the former commander of Sayeret Matkal, the General Staff commando unit. The prosecution has demanded a heavy punishment - including a prison term and demotion. The other two officers convicted are also from the commando unit.

"Ben-Avraham needs to get a medal not a trial. He's one of Israel's greatest and bravest fighters," said Lt-Col. (res.) Nadav Milstein, who along with 100 other reserve officers signed a petition published in newspapers against the trial. "Putting officers like Ben-Avraham on trial weakens us. The whole approach is sending a negative message. No one will want to take the lead anymore. No one will assume responsibility. We'll have an army full of *jomkims*," Milstein said.

Volcker Committee convenes to review Holocaust assets

MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

THE Volcker Committee, charged with identifying dormant Holocaust-era assets in Swiss banks, held its first meeting Wednesday in New York.

The committee, which met behind closed doors, reviewed its mission and attended to housekeeping details, which included a honorarium to compensate committee members for their time.

The Jewish delegates will not personally accept the honorarium of \$50,000, Jewish Agency head Avraham Burg said in a statement issued yesterday. He proposed, instead, that their honoraria go to a fund to perpetuate the memories of the victims of the Holocaust.

The other Jewish delegates are Ruben Baraja of Argentina, an official of the World Jewish Congress, and Ronald Lauder, an American businessman-philanthropist.

The delegates chosen by the bankers are an historian, a law professor and a former diplomat. The committee chairman,

American banker Paul Volcker, apparently imposed strict discipline on the committee, intended to limit contacts with the media. He issued a brief statement yesterday that was shy of new details. Instead, it reiterated the mission of the committee as outlined in an agreement signed last May 2 between the Swiss Bankers Association and the World Jewish Restitution Organization.

The first task is to name an auditor to conduct a review of dormant assets in Swiss banks. Before Volcker became chairman, the committee had informally approved the accounting firm of Price Waterhouse to conduct the review, sources said. It was not known if Volcker would confirm that choice.

There was no indication of when the Volcker Committee would meet next or how long it expected to take to complete its work.

Before it signed an agreement with the bankers, the World Jewish Restitution Organization said that one of its grievances was the lack of openness in the process the banks had used previously in determining the assets. Yesterday, several observers suggested that, given demands for transparency, the Volcker committee meetings should be open.

Separately, the Swiss company, Societe Generale de Surveillance - the first one named in a US Senate inquiry of Jewish assets in Swiss accounts - said yesterday that it had concluded its review of its records and found that the "vast majority" of the accounts in question had been claimed by their rightful owners after the war.

Last March, Senator Al D'Amato had challenged SGS to indicate what had happened to 182 accounts, then worth \$2 million, that were mentioned in material that had been newly released by the US National Archives.

In a telephone interview from Geneva, SGS said that an audit by accountants Coopers and Lybrand indicated that 178 accounts were commercial balances of customers who had since been in contact with the company. The audit could not reach any conclusions about the deposition of four accounts, whose total value was \$6,430.

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